

Integrating e-learning, valuing collaboration and inter-institutional networks

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integrating e-learning

combining e-learning with (a lot of) elements from face-to-face learning, (some of) distance education and (possibly) training on the job: a combination of learning opportunities, available in the “classroom”, at home or at work, by use of the web, books, etc.

media mix

- face-to-face activities: classroom, f2f group work
- (guided) self study: printed materials
- e-learning / computer-supported collaborative learning / multi media
- learning by doing: some training on the job or practical work

in search for an optimal / affordable mix

some characteristics

- educational concept: leading principle, e.g. competency based
- redesign: not substitution, but some kind of innovation
- new expertises and methods for development needed

need for collaboration

design and development of high quality

multi-media / e-learning materials:

- is expensive
- is time consuming
- asks for new expertises
- is to a large extent team work

==>> stimulating inter-institutional collaboration
and comakership

approaches

1. **consortium:** institutes create a new organization, e.g. Dutch Digital University, UK eUniversity
2. **tender:** joint proposals and matched budgets e.g. EU, SURF Educatief
3. **network:** teachers / scholars sharing resources, e.g. joint development and exchange of materials

consortium: Dutch Digital University

10 HE institutes pay annual fee and develop joint projects to be financed by fee and additional budget of Minister of Education; top down large projects (€500,000), joint agenda (teacher training, health education, informatics,...), only for development, products also commercially usable, ...

positive aspects

- + collaboration between universities and polytechnics
- + stimulus on renewing materials (teachers)
- + stimulus on rethinking ICT in education (management)

negative aspects

- a lot of bureaucracy
- content production instead of educational innovation and dissemination of expertise
- common denominator re. educational model
- great problems re. implementation, maintenance and interoperability

consortia are complex and difficult to sustain
(cf. Tony Bates at ODLAA)

tender

joint proposal in search for money;

some considerations:

- an extra, but no solid basis for a continuing process of course renewal: innovation cannot depend on granting of proposal
- limited match between constraints of tender and needs of participants

network

sharing resources with partners: joint development
and exchange of materials, bottom-up

- not depending on external money
- long-term activity: quality and reliability of partners
- partners add value: specific expertise, existing materials, reputation, experiences, ...

core: partnerships

example

towards a MSc in educational sciences:

- CoCo at Sydney University
- DIS and LSI at Florida State University
- OTEC at Open University of the Netherlands

steps

1. exchange of materials and students
2. joint development of courses
3. joint MSc or joint learning network

most important implementation factors

evaluation study:

13 seniors, experienced in educational innovation

expert meeting: identifying success and failure factors

three steps: factor generating, clustering and rating

method: hierarchical cluster analysis

result: nothing new

1. make added value visible
2. make the benefit of product clear
3. choose a competent project chair
4. celebrate your success
5. management must be involved and competent
6. project chair must be completely dedicated

result: nothing new

1. make added value visible
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- but who pays attention to these aspects?**

Jochems, Van Merriënboer & Koper (2004), *Integrated e-learning; implications for pedagogy, technology and organization*. London: RoutledgeFalmer, 2004.

Wopereis, Kirschner, Paas, Stoyanov & Hendriks (2005). Failure and success factors of educational ICT projects: a group concept mapping approach. *British Journal of Educational Technology*, 36(4), 681-684.

Thank you for your attention

more information: www.ou.nl/english

www.ou.nl/otecorganization

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