

THE DUTCH DIGITALE UNIVERSITEIT

STRATEGIC COOPERATION AND
EDUCATIONAL INNOVATION

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samenwerken aan vernieuwing van het Hoger Onderwijs



What is the Digitale Universiteit?

- Or... what it is NOT
- It is NOT a university, it's a consortium
- It has NO teachers, but project members
- It has NO students, but project outcomes that can be used by the consortia members
- It has NO board, but a 'bureau' (central office)
 - Director
 - Programme managers
 - Support staffto coordinate the projects

The Digitale Universiteit: an overview

- Founded in 2001
- A consortium of 10 universities in the Netherlands
- With the aim to collaborate on e-learning development and to share resources and expertise
- Over 40 projects focusing on e-content development, online assessment, online learning and teaching and knowledge development
- Yearly turn-over about € 10.000.000 (contributions from the members and additional funding from the Ministry of Education)

Mission of the DU

- To realise qualitative and quantitative economies of scale for educational innovation supported by information and communication technology
- The results:
 - Further digitising of education with special focus on blended and distance learning and teaching
 - Dissemination of educational concepts and ICT
 - Convergence of systems for interoperability and re-usability of digital learning materials
 - Cost-effective use of digital learning materials, applications and electronic learning environments by implementing an Educational Service Provider

Participants

- Universiteit van Amsterdam
- Universiteit Twente
- Vrije Universiteit
- Open Universiteit
- Fontys Hogescholen
- Hogeschool INHOLLAND
- Hogeschool Rotterdam
- Hogeschool van Amsterdam
- Hogeschool van Utrecht
- Saxion Hogescholen

The Digitale Universiteit: the projects

- The projects of the Digital University are divided into five programmes:
 - Digital learning materials: tasks and resources
 - Digital testing, assessments and digital portfolio
 - Distance learning and teaching: dual, virtual and international
 - Build up and disseminate expertise
 - Virtual Learning environments (standardisation and interoperability)

Results 2002

- In 2002 some 20 products in several knowledge domains. E.g. :
 - Digital courses Economy, Financial Services and E-business
 - Online teacher training
 - Law on line
 - Simulation Membrane technology
 - On line course Research Environmental effects
 - Art database (over 6000 images and descriptions of art objects)
 - Interactive video case Management
 - On line course on Statistics and data analysis (MODUS)
 - Digital Portfolio
 - Digital progress tests teacher training

Projects 2003

- In 2003 22 projects started within de Digital University among which:
 - Digital teacher aids for Secondary Teacher training
 - Toolbox Personnel Assessment
 - Advanced Digital and flexible testing
 - Virtual knowledge network
 - Digital video course for guiding practically-oriented learning
 - Multidisciplinary Mathematics
 - e-Xperimenting on a distance
 - Knowledge bank Hospital Teachers
 - Collaborative learning Digitally supported
 - Costs and benefits of E-learning

Results: strategic cooperation

- Educational Service Provider “ESPELON”
 - new organisation
 - Digitale Universiteit and Dutch SURF Foundation
 - uptake of products that are produced in innovation projects
 - Espelon will take care of
 - marketing and sales for the products
 - technical hosting, hosting services, support (helpdesk)
 - product maintenance
 - Communities of practice: contact with the product users, and make arrangements with the original developers for the actual maintenance activities

Results: educational innovation

- Automated conversion of EML 1.0 to IMS-QTI 1.2
 - EML developed by the Dutch Open University
 - EML has been the basis of the new IMS Learning Design specification
 - EML markup language has been used to encode learning material in DU project
 - EML cannot be interpreted by commercial virtual learning environments (VLEs)
 - DU has implemented and funded a converter to translate the material into the IMS-QTI 1.2 specification so that it can be used in conjunction with the VLEs in the consortium

Results: educational innovation

- Digital portfolio
 - Monitoring the development of the competencies of students during their study career
 - Supported by the DU Digital portfolio system
 - The DU portfolio saves the institutions the effort of creating sufficient web space and maintenance
 - Institutions pay from 10 euro per year per student
 - At several institutions the portfolio of the DU is (being) implemented
 - The portfolio is now used in separate components of the study, but institutions will implement the portfolio in the entire study career of the student in the near future.

Results: educational innovation

- MODUS
 - The application of statistics in social sciences: difficult subject, for many students statistics is a large obstacle in their study
 - With MODUS
 - you can determine which statistic test for a specific research is suitable
 - you can examine with cases how a method must be used
 - and it serves as a book of references
 - MODUS is hosted by the DU
 - Users only have to use a browser to use MODUS

Results: educational innovation

- InnoBus
 - A case on CD-Rom: problems in a Canadian transportation company
 - Video recordings, documents, interview and a tour of the company
 - Possibility to imitate the real situation by going through the video and the documents
 - Possibility to influence certain conditions, such as a restricted period for collecting information
 - Based on the newest insights of business administration
 - Case materials are available in English
 - The last technological developments in the area of multimedia and interaction between teacher and student

The future

- The year 2004 will focus on the new DU strategy (to be ready March 2004).
 - sector-related way of working
 - programmes for the transfer from higher vocational training to university education
 - the use of open courseware will be further developed.
- The activities of the DU will expand in 2004:
 - developing and expanding the ‘company’ itself
 - more projects

The future

- In 2004 the increasing advantage of the participation in the consortium should be evident
- Increase of the number of people that are actively involved in the activities of the DU
- The commercial activities in the “Exploitation Inc” will be developed
 - collaboration between the DU and larger companies
 - in the area of lifelong e-learning for higher employees
 - first pilot in spring 2004

The future

- The 'advanced department' per domain:
 - Each institution of the DU should have at least one such department
 - An advanced department is innovative in the use of ICT and digital products and plays a stimulating role both within the own institution and within the sector of which it is a member