

4th Issue
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CUELC Intercultural Workshop 2008 In Retrospect

Résumé from Evry

The workshop in Evry combined one full-day workshop where discussion focused on examples of research and practice in eLearning at TELECOM & Management SudParis and a week-end of excursions providing a first introduction to French culture and history. During the workshop, Zuzana Bizonova presented an overview of her PhD thesis, Model Driven E-learning Platform Integration, a method based on Model Driven Architecture (MDA), for integrating approaches of candidate LMS systems into a generalized architectural framework. Alda Gancarski presented RIOPE, an in-house Institut Telecom project, which aims to define and validate an environment for the dynamic search and composition of learning objects. This project will provide an opportunity for the members of the CUELC project to gain insight into cultural trends in the ways professors share learning resources. Amel Bouzeghoub presented p-LearNet, a project funded by the French National Research Agency, for which the main goal is to explore the potential of Pervasive Communications for human learning, whatever the place, the time, the organisational and technological contexts, of the individual or collective learning process. Finally



Katherine Maillet presented the CULTURA project a web-based course which provides a methodology for second language and culture acquisition for students working collaboratively in two different countries with shared resources, discussion forums, and reciprocal peer tutoring. The workshop was especially fruitful in developing a mutual understanding of the engineering programmes at TELECOM & Management SudParis and the University of Cairo, School of Engineering to lay the groundwork for future collaboration and exchanges.

During the week-end, students and their professors were given a whirlwind tour of Paris with visits to the Musée d'Orsay, the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre, the Château de Versailles, and a boat-ride on the Seine.



Résumé from Aachen

The last week of summer for CUELC was hot of discussions about differences of campus systems within various cultures and countries. Three teachers, exactly Prof. Samir, Dr. Nevin and Dr. Magda, from Cairo University came together with four Egyptian students Eman, Menna, Mohamad and Shady firstly to Paris/Evry and later to Aachen to participate in intercultural workshop that took place in France and Germany. Professor Matthias Jarke opened the workshop underlining the importance of distance learning and Dr. Ralf Klamma follows the presentation summarizing the achievements of the CUELC project. During the time of workshop the number of presentations about currently working LMS(Learning Management Systems) were held by representatives of

universities departments. Phillip Rohde told about Learning Portals - the E-Learning system for RWTH Aachen. The visitation of Open University in Heerlen, the Netherlands show the distance approach for the undergraduate study for more than 29.000 learners. The participants learned as well about the structure of research center in Cologne, that was kindly introduced by Erika Linz. The innovative approach of 3D visualizing for distance learning of archeological places was presented in Virtual Cave of RWTH Aachen. All these items and the discovery of differences and similarities of cultures and ways of learning made the workshop interactive. I sincerely hope that every of participants get important information and experience for his/her future research.

Zina Petrushyna
CUELC Coordinator in RWTH Aachen



Résumé from Cairo

Our 1 week trip in the EU was quite an experience. It was not just the differences but also the unexpected similarities that helped make this experience unique and rich. We got to see different alternatives for MOODLE used in other universities, it was not just the software but the entire system and how students and teachers interacted with the system. It was nice to see E-learning in other countries especially ones that started before the CUELC giving us a sneak peak of what to expect.



We were impressed by the GUI and the amount of courses available online, another important difference was the scale of the system, It evolved into a complete solution for managing the university and it's resources rather than a course delivery system. In CUELC system a main advantage is that it uses a unified template which makes it easier for students to get used to and learn. Other systems had the problem of defining an LMS for use across the departments and the style of presenting.

The interesting thing was the similarities in the challenges facing the E-learning projects. A main challenge is always attracting the student to use the online materials when the offline option is available. An interesting approach was that of the Open University in Holland which has taken E-learning to



Unfortunately there was not enough time to meet and interact with a lot of students due to the time of the trip and most of students being on vacation. Nevertheless, when we met the students in the dorms on the final day it was fun and made us realize the sheer diversity among the students in the university nationalities, opinions etc.. . We discussed the differences in life styles and our pre-conceptions about each others which was one of the nicest experiences in the trip.

the next step offering little or no offline content for a variety of age groups and programs using only distance learning this approach has demonstrated the advantage that E-learning has in life long and distant learning.

Moving on to our impressions about the trip. Interacting with new cultures and new people getting to know more about France and Germany the life style etc. was a rich experience.

We were surprised by some of the topics of research and especially the amount of cross disciplinary research taking place. We were impressed by the diversity in the topics of research and we were quite surprised to see the amount of research dedicated to studying community mechanics and human behavior.

