

EVALUATION REPORT

by Prof. Dr. Rumen Pranchov
Director of Higher Education Directorate
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about main results of the work
under the project

Thematic Networks 213871-CP-2-2002-1-BG-ERASMUS-TN EUROPEAN COMPUTING EDUCATION AND TRAINING

As a Director of the Higher Education Directorate at the Ministry of Education and Science I have been following the work of this SOCRATES project since its very beginning in 2001. I keep personal contact with the Project management as well as with the Bulgarian SOCRATES office, and with the Directorate-General for Education and Culture at the EUROPEAN COMMISSION. Ongoing information about specific results of the project work I also get from the TN ECET web site, as well as from the sites linked to it: those of the Virtual European Department of Computing, CompSysTech and e-Learning Shell.

Currently 65 universities and companies from the ICT sector participate in the consortium working under the project. That is, in comparison to the first year the number of partners has increased with 10. The project is coordinated by the Department of Computer Systems and Technology at the University of Rouse, which has an experience of many years in the management of large national and international consortiums.

As more significant results of the work in the second project year the following can be indicated:

- **Comparable curricula** have been prepared for a **Master** in:
 - Computer Science;
 - Computer Engineering;
 - Software Engineering;
 - Information Systems.

These curricula have been discussed at a virtual round table, as well as at the Meeting of 19 and 20 June in Sofia.

- **Comparable syllabi** have been prepared for a **Bachelor and Master** in:
 - Computer Science;
 - Computer Engineering;
 - Software Engineering;
 - Information Systems.
- Two **Collections with Professional Standards, Curricula and Syllabi** have been published, for a Bachelor and Master accordingly.
- **The Erasmus ECTS Information Package** has been updated and re-published.

These **Collections**, as well as the **Information Package** impress both with their content and layout.

- The **Bulgarian branch of the Virtual European Department of Computing** has been established. On 17 December 2002 rectors of 11 universities and directors of 4 institutes of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences put their signatures below the Declaration of establishment of the department. The state supported this academic initiative with about 600 thousand EURO, which were used to equip 36 computer laboratories for e-Learning all over the country. In this Virtual Department of Computing, the Ministry of Education and Science sees the kernel of a future Virtual University.
- The **Virtual Centre for Preparing WEB based Courses – “e-Learning Shell”** has been completed. It was tested by our Ministry and was recommended to be used in the universities for the purposes of e-Learning. All universities members of the Bulgarian Virtual Department of Computing are already working with it. The developed WEB-based courses are being included in the Virtual Library.
- The work on the development of the first **Virtual Laboratory of Computer Organization** successfully goes on.
- The **International conference on Computing-CompSysTech**, with an emphasis on e-Learning has been organized and conducted.

- Members of TN ECET participated in organising and conducting a **Spring Conference in Computer Graphics**.
- Participation in organising and conducting the **4-th Annual Conference of the LTSN-ICS**.

With the organisation of these three conferences one of the new requirements of the EUROPEAN COMMISSION to the Thematic Networks – to carry out not only teaching, but also research activities, has been accomplished.

- Conducting a **Round table on computing education** will take place.

In conclusion we can say that the Workplan for 2002 / 2003 of TN ECET is being completed successfully. The preconditions for **Establishing of EUROPEAN COMPUTER EDUCATION ASSOCIATION**, which is one of the most important tasks of the second and the third years, are already present.

I am glad that my opinion also coincides with the one of Mr. David Coyne, Director for Education in Directorate General for Education and Culture at the European Commission.

I wish everyone a successful work and a pleasant stay in Berlin!

Prof. Dr. Rumen Pranchov

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Sofia, Bulgaria