

VIRTUAL EDUCA 2001
IBERO-AMERICAN FOCUS, GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE
ON-LINE TRAINING: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES
International Conference on Education, Training, and New Technologies

Madrid, Palacio de Congresos, 27-29 June, 2001

<http://www.virtual-educa.net>

CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR PAPERS

INFO XXI INITIATIVE

Under the auspices of:

Erkki Liikanen, Member of the European Commission
Commissary for Business and Information Society

Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport
State Secretariat for Education and Universities

Ministry of Science and Technology

Generalitat Valenciana

National Distance University of Spain (UNED)

Catalonian Open University (UOC)

Spanish Agency for International Cooperation

Airtel Móvil, S.A.

Organized by:

AIESAD (Ibero-American Association of Distance Education Universities)
CREAD (The Inter-American Distance Education Consortium)
AEFVI (Virtual Education and Training Agency)
E/RE (Association for the International Promotion of the Spanish Language)

Supported by: **ICEX (Commerce Agency of Spain)**

International exhibition and promotion organized by: **NEXUS MEDIA Ltd.**

Media Partner: **GRUPO INTERECONOMÍA**

Sponsors:

MADRID CITY HALL

NANFOR IBÉRICA (Technology)

Co-organizing institutions:

**European Commission
Information Society Technologies Content, Multimedia Tools and Markets
Education and Culture**

José Ortega y Gasset Foundation

**Organization of the Ibero-American States
For Education, Science and Culture (OEI)**

Latin Union

**Ministry of Education, Culture, and Sports
National Center for Information and Communication**

Collaborating institutions:

Government of Madrid (Department of Education)

Higher Council of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, and Navigation of Spain

OVSI Foundation (Valencia Office for the Information Society)

Madrid Official Chamber of Commerce and Industry

ATEI (Ibero-American Education Television)

**AHCIET (Hispanic-American of Research Centers and Telecommunication
Companies)**

UNESCO Distance Education Project

Electronic/Digital Publishers

ELR Publishers. Cuadernos Cervantes

Inter-American Development Bank

STRUCTURE

- Plenary sessions: a) opening ceremony; b) specific presentations; c) closing session (conclusions and proposals).
- Parallel sessions and round tables coordinated by experts in the conference topics.
- Presentation of projects, programs, and institutional products (European Union, Latin America, United States)
- Workshops (Wednesday, 27 June)

CONFERENCE TOPICS

- I. Virtual universities and distance education centers. Teacher training in the use of new information and communication technologies.**
- II. New technologies as a tool for training programs in developing countries.**
- III. The information society: design of on-line contents.**
- IV. The use of virtual education to overcome physical and social disabilities, marginalization, and exclusion.**
- V. Distance training in the business sector.**
- VI. Virtual training evaluation and certification.**
- VII. Romance languages on the Internet, *SWOT Analysis* (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats).**

WORKSHOPS

Workshops will have two main goals: a) analysis of relevant cases; b) practical training. They will be led by international experts. Participants are free to substitute attendance at the workshops for one of the programmed visits to Spanish institutions involved in virtual education (Ministry of Education, Culture, and Sports, Distance University of Spain, etc.) Visits are scheduled for the same day as the workshops (June 27).

- **Workshop 1.- The use of new technologies in Education. Teacher Training Programs.**
- **Workshop 2.- Virtual and distance universities.**
- **Workshop 3.- Tele-learning for the workplace.**
- **Workshop 4.- Design and implementation of virtual training projects.**
- **Workshop 5.- Training of health personnel using new technologies.**

LANGUAGES

The official language of the conference is Spanish. Simultaneous translation in Spanish/English will be provided for the plenary sessions, as well as for one parallel session per time period. Papers may be presented in Spanish, Portuguese, French, Italian, or English.

CALL FOR PAPERS

a) General information

In the parallel sessions, the general topics of the Conference will be covered by presentations of papers and projects (20 to 30 minute presentations). In the round tables, there will be debates linked to the Conference topics. **If you wish to make a presentation, please submit the following:**

- A 500-word summary clearly describing the following:
 - Content area and relevance of the chosen topic;
 - Conference topic –please see conference topics listed above. Only papers clearly related to one of those topics will be considered.
 - Identify the author(s) and presenter(s) if the proposal is accepted.
- A one-page biographical description of the presenter(s) indicating any previous experience in international conferences.

b) Deadlines

Please e-mail the requested information to ponencias@aefvi.org. You will be notified of the safe arrival of your proposal within 72 hours. For additional information, please feel free to contact info@aefvi.org.

The deadline for submission of proposals is MARCH 31, 2001. On April 20, you will be notified as to whether the Academic Committee has accepted your proposal. If your proposal is accepted, you must submit a 1,500-word abstract of your paper BY MAY 20. This abstract will be included in the Conference Proceedings.

c) Specifications

The final text of the papers will be published in the Conference Proceedings. Apart from meeting the deadline, the paper must fulfill the following requirements:

- **Maximum Length:** 15 pages A4, double spaced, including bibliography, tables, and graphs.
- **Submission:** by e-mail attachment only, in Word, Times New Roman – 11 pt. The name of the file should be derived from the first two letters of each of the author's names (for example: Francisco Jiménez López = frjilo.doc)
- **Title page:** the title page should indicate only: the title of the paper, the conference topic, name(s) of author(s), mailing and electronic addresses, and a brief abstract (5-10 lines).

EXHIBITORS

The exhibition area of the conference, which will be open to all participants and to area experts, will be divided into two sections: institutional and commercial. Many international exhibitors have confirmed their participation as exhibitors.

Exhibitors will represent the following sectors: a) public institutions and universities that offer distance education and continuing training programs; b) publishers and educational software developers; c) on-line service providers; d) telecommunications businesses; e) Internet portals on specific topics.

REGISTRATION FEES

a) Institutional registration

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| - Institutions affiliated with AIESAD, CREAD, AEFVI, E/RE | 60.000 ptas (\$/€360) |
| - Other institutions | 75.000 ptas. (\$/€450) |
| - Each additional participant | 15.000 ptas (\$/€90) |

(The institutional registration fee is restricted to representatives of institutions, organizations, and companies, and will cover up to two representatives)

b) Individual registration

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| - Individual registration | 25.000 ptas (\$/€150) |
| - Students | 10.000 ptas (\$/€60) |
| - Presenters | 0 ptas (\$/€0) |

Registration fees include conference materials and proceedings, one workshop or institutional visit (official institution or university), attendance certificate, a reception, coffee breaks, and periodic information updates for the year.

INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION FORMS. DEADLINE.

For additional information and registration forms, please contact:

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| - In America: | CREAD Executive Office
The Pennsylvania State University
211 Mitchell Building
University Park, PA 16802-3601 (USA)
phone: +(1) (814) 863 0488
fax: +(1) (814) 865 3290
e-mail: axv4@outreach.psu.edu |
|---------------|---|

- Other countries AEFVI (Agencia de Educación y Formación Virtual)
 c/ Serrano, 112, 2º izq.
 28006 Madrid (Spain)
 tel.: +(34) 91 319 39 41
 fax: +(34) 91 391 53 24
 correo-e: info@aefvi.org

Conference registration deadline: June 15, 2001.

GOALS

In the past few years, distance education has undergone significant development. At the start of the new millennium, the concept of *lifelong learning* is already part of our daily vocabulary, as well as the definition of our society as the *information society*.

Moreover, the distance education sector has gone through a very clear expansion process. More and more projects and contents are being developed –adapted to the new technological trends– in fields such as education, entry-level and continuing training, language learning, etc. At the same time, new international networks have begun to emerge among universities, educational centers, distance training institutions, as well as other local, regional, national, and international institutions.

For the Ibero-American community, the joint consideration of the current state of the *art* as well as a contrastive analysis of the most recent perspectives can be very beneficial. These will allow for networks to be created and activities to be carried out collaboratively by institutions on both sides of the Atlantic, and for synergies to be established with the existing programs in the European Union.

There are also practical connotations that derive from the spread of the new technologies: geographical and functional mobility, *tele-working*, and *on-line learning* have consequences on factors such as the world balance of power and the distribution of resources. For this reason, **VIRTUAL EDUCA** is of special interest to experts in the fields of regional development, international cooperation, technical support for developing countries, etc. There are new challenges to be faced, especially in those societies in which the technology is insufficiently developed to enable them to act as providers of support and content. The opportunities that on-line training offers to overcome inequalities and disabilities have to be a central topic in a Conference such as this.

Finally, we want to stress the emphasis that **VIRTUAL EDUCA** has placed on promoting the use of Spanish and the other Romance languages as vehicles for virtual training and on increasing the development of content in those languages. This will be possible only if the development of computer applications in those languages increases. In order to achieve this goal, it is essential for all representatives of the strategic sectors (education and training, industry, services, new technologies) to become aware of the viability of the new technologies as a first-rate development tool.
