



NATIONAL REPORT ON ELEARNING IN GREECE

Graphics, Multimedia and GIS Laboratory, University of Patras

Introduction

The support of education and more specifically e-learning in the educational system is one of the most central trends in European Union policy. Every year the European Committee finances numerable projects aiming to design, develop and evaluate e-learning platforms. E-learning applications differ regarding the thematic areas they are applied to and the levels of education they cover.

Current status of e-learning in Greece

Despite the amount of E.C. funded projects about e-learning, the e-learning practices in Greek education is in a primary stage at the time being. The majority of Greek schools have insufficiently equipped computer labs, thus their usage for e-learning purposes is currently not feasible, especially for the needs of the Art teaching. Nevertheless all the actions regarding education and art over the internet and with electronic means have been dedicated to the digitisation of artworks and creation of digital libraries as the first step of the e-learning procedure.

The e-learning platforms regarding art-courses are very few. An operational and successful example of educational procedure through e-learning platforms is conducted by the Postgraduate Programme of Athens School of Fine Arts (ASFA) entitled "Interfaculty Master Programme in Digital Arts". The duration of the studies is divided into four semesters. The first two include courses, the third courses and seminars and the fourth is the final project semester.

The object of the Master Program (M.A.) is the support of the contemporary artistic and technological research and the production of new knowledge in the area of Digital Arts. More Specifically the aims of the M.A. are the specialization of Fine Arts graduates or graduates from other similar University departments, in the modern methods and techniques of the interdisciplinary approach, collaboration and research, so that they will be able to sufficiently cover the increasing cultural and social needs of Greece, European Union countries and

other countries, concerning the field of the M.A. and the artists' instruction in depth, so that they will be able to produce new knowledge.

E-learning in Greece in the future

The planned actions for the years to come regarding e-learning in Greece are dedicated to aspects that are straightforwardly related to the education or to supportive structures. Some of these actions are:

- Technical infrastructures development
- Software development
- Development of services for synchronous and asynchronous distance education.
- User-friendly user interfaces for e-learning.
- Educational material development
- Network Infrastructures
- User training

Especially for the teaching of art and culture in schools the actions followed regard the creation of complete digital libraries that can be integrated in e-learning platforms.

The actions presented above are being funded by 3rd Community Support Programme (Information Society), the European Union (5th Framework Programme, SOCRATES, DG Education & Culture, e.t.c.), and the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs of Greece.

References

Some interesting links regarding the use of e-learning in Greek education and art education are presented below:

<http://www.digitalarts.asfa.gr/index.htm>

<http://www.teleteaching.gr>

<http://www.e-paideia.net>

<http://www.gunet.gr>

<http://portal.ucnet.uoc.gr/index.php>

<http://www.auth.gr/virtuelschool>