

NETIS NEWSLETTER

Newsletter of the NET-IS project ↗ 1st issue ↗ October, 2007



Education and Culture
Leonardo da Vinci



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INTRODUCING THE NETIS PROJECT

Network for Teaching Information Society (NETIS) is a two-year-long (2006-2008) Leonardo da Vinci project funded by the European Union. In the framework of the project we develop e-learning materials, course – and textbooks that can be deployed to support teaching Information Society courses across Europe.

The project is coordinated by the BUTE Information Society Research Institute (ITTK) in Hungary and involves six other partners from Europe:

- Praxis Center for Policy Studies, Tallinn, Estonia
- Department of Informatics, Alexander Technological Educational Institute, Thessalonica, Greece
- SCIENTER, Bologna, Italy
- Information Society Education and Research Group, University of West Hungary, Sopron, Hungary
- János Selye University, Komarno, Slovakia
- School of Computing Science, Middlesex University, London, United Kingdom

We welcome everybody in our first electronic newsletter which aim is to inform about the NETIS project activities and materials:

Robert Pinter, NETIS co-ordinator
26th of October 2007

3RD MEETING IN THESSALONICA

NETIS held its third general meeting in Thessalonica, Greece at ATEI. Main topics of the meeting were the segmentation interviews, preparation of course book, content and structure of textbook (country reports, research papers, students' essays), NETIS Moodle (e-learning system), test teaching and the dissemination strategy.



THE HUNGARIAN VERSION OF THE INFORMATION SOCIETY COURSE BOOK IS AVAILABLE

Az információs társadalom

Tankönyv



SZERKESZTETTE:
Pintér Róbert

Gondolat – Új Mandátum

A new course book on Information Society has been published recently in the framework of the Leonardo NETIS project. The book includes the most current and popular themes related to the emerging Information Society, such as e-Inclusion, e-Government, network society, digital culture, etc. The co-authors of the book are prominent experts in the topics. The Greek and English versions of the book will be available soon. Download free pdf version here:

http://www.ittk.hu/netis/teachm_cbhun.htm

We are happy to announce that the Hungarian version is finished, and the English version will be available soon (the chapters are currently being proofread). The version in Greek has already been started, and it will be available by the end of the year.

The main themes of the book:

- The meaning, history and definition of the Information Society
- Technology and society in the age of information
- Social networks
- Time and space of Information Society
- Innovation and competition in the Information Society
- Legal aspects and regulation
- Information policy and strategy of the European Union
- E-administration in the European Union
- E-inclusion and the digital divide
- Digital culture and information literacy
- E-learning in the Information Society
- Popular buzzwords, supernarratives and metanarratives - utopia and reality

NEW PROJECT URL

Information on the NETIS project is also available on our new URL, please visit <http://www.netisproject.eu>. Please feel free to send us your comments!

NETIS BLOG UP AND RUNNING

The project team has launched its blog to disseminate news and developments more effectively, and also to provide the public with an opportunity for interactive communication and joint thinking. The blog is a "community blog", so members of the NETIS project will regularly post their project activities (e.g. teaching, research, etc.) and update it with news on the information society (e.g. stories, questions) related to their countries.

First posts are:

[Welcome everybody](#) by Robert Pinter

[PhD Thesis defended on Internet voting in Estonia](#) by Tarmo Kalvet

[International Journal of Electronic Governance](#) by Kerstin Siakas

[Middlesex in October](#) by Chris Sadler

[Call for Papers - Information society textbook](#) by NETIS team

The blog is available at: <http://netis.edublogs.org>

SEGMENTATION RESEARCH – PHASE II:

Interviews with researchers and teachers are being conducted and reports are in process.

Here segmentation means clarifying the specific needs of the main target groups, e.g. students, teachers, and researchers, who are especially interested in the topic of the information society.

The reports are based on interviews and will be available until the end of the year at the Project website:

Country	Interviews	Ready in:
UK	10	October
Slovakia	10	In process
Greece	6	Ready
Estonia	5	Ready
Hungary	7	Ready
Italy	In process	In process

TEST TEACHING HAS COMMENCED

Test teaching means testing course book and partly textbook and the electronic (e-learning) system in combined learning courses in different countries. The language of the course and the students' background (faculty and majors) differ.

Test teaching of the "The Information Society" course has commenced in Hungary at

- Eötvös Loránd University, MA students in sociology.
- Eötvös Loránd University, MA students in pedagogy.
- Adult learning course for social workers within the Szocinfo project.

See <http://www.infonia.hu/szocinfo> (in Hungarian, Szocinfo means Social Informatics).

Test teaching has commenced in Slovakia and Greece too, and in the UK it will start shortly.

NETIS has sent Hungarian course-books to institutions of higher education in Hungary, so materials are available in most important university cities (e.g. Budapest, Debrecen, Eger, Győr, Nyíregyháza, Sopron, and Szeged).

THE EXPORTED MOODLE VERSION IS AVAILABLE IN HUNGARIAN

The NETIS project provides students with the opportunity to learn interactively. We decided that the Moodle system is the best educational online learning framework for our program. The Moodle system is a free, open source course management system.

The Course book chapters exist in Moodle format (at the moment only in Hungarian and partly in English) and can be adapted and used in any Moodle system, not only in the NETIS Moodle site (<http://netis.nyme.hu>).

The exported Moodle chapters are available in ZIP at http://netis_moodle.extra.hu (This is a password protected site, please contact István Bessenyei: istvanbess@yahoo.de for access.)

BOOK LAUNCHES IN HUNGARY

NETIS has organised the book launches of its Course Book in Hungary:
Sopron, 11th October.
Budapest, 16th October.
Slovakia, 18th October.

On 16th October at the book launch of the "*Information Society – from the theory to the political practise*" we were welcoming the authors:

István Bessenyei, Márton Holczer, Bence Kollányi, Szilárd Molnár, Árpád Rab and Levente Székely.

The book was presented by the editor of the volume, Robert Pinter (BME-ITTK).

There will be photographic coverage of the events in the next newsletter.

CALL FOR PAPERS

As part of the project we appeal for papers to be submitted that address any aspect of the Information Society. Papers will be published in our electronic textbook and the best ones will be translated and published in information society related journals.

Papers should be between 2,500 and 4,000 words and are welcomed from students and staff alike.

Initial expressions of interest (preferably in English) accompanied by a short (no more than 1 A4 page) outline of the article should reach the Project Co-ordinator by **Friday 16th November 2007**.

A review panel will select from the expressions of interest articles for further development and publication. Mentoring to develop articles will be available in each country.

We welcome expressions of interest and articles that address a wide range of issues related to the INFORMATION SOCIETY including, but not limited to:

- concept, theory and history of the information society
- social role of technology
- network society and economy
- use of space and change in social relations
- significance of innovation in the economy and society
- information society strategy of the EU and member states
- e-government and administration
- digital divide and e-equal opportunities
- digital culture and digitalisation of cultural heritage
- e-education and life long learning
- crime in an information age
- e-commerce
- disability issues
- legal regulation

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST SHOULD REACH: r.pinter@netisproject.eu by 5pm 16th November.

See the Call for papers for more details:

http://www.ittk.hu/netis/doc/NETIS_student_CfP.doc

CONFERENCE NEWS: INTRODUCTION OF NETIS AT THE DANUBE RECTORS' CONFERENCE

Dr István Bessenyei held a lecture at the Danube Rectors' Conference, 23-25 September, 2007, Krems an der Donau, Austria. The title of the lecture was: "Network learning experiences". The NETIS eLearning programme was introduced in the lecture.

At the conference the vice-president of the academic council of the Babes-Bolyai University Mr. István Szamosközi invited Mr. Bessenyei to present and teach the NETIS e-learning-program in Cluj-Napoca, Romania.

More information on the DRC-conference:

http://drc.uni-mb.si/documents/duk%20folder%20drc_final.pdf (3,57 mb)

SHORT NEWS FROM THE WORLD OF INFORMATION SOCIETY AND E-LEARNING

The International e-Learning Association established:

"The specific goals of IELA are to:

- Serve as a catalyst for the development and exchange of e-learning formation among universities, educational institutions, government agencies, funding agencies, conferences, and businesses;
- Publish materials advancing the use of e-learning;
- Promote excellence in e-learning research, development and use;
- Disseminate information about e-learning opportunities and use to the public, the media, governments, and business and industry;
- Share and promote policies, procedures, and practices with respect to all matters regarding the use of e-learning; and
- Cooperate and liaise with related regional, national and international associations."

<http://www.ielassoc.org/join.htm>

Ministers in the UK are urging schools to involve police in the most serious cases of cyber bullying of pupils and staff in a new crackdown on the "unacceptable" and "insidious" use of new technology.

See the full story at

<http://education.guardian.co.uk/schools/story/0,,2173987,00.html>

e-Learning Development Center and the Estonia e-Vocational School (<http://www.e-vet.ee/>) are organising a competition to find the best

e-learning courses targeted at vocational education level. The deadline for applications is October 29 and the names of the winners will be announced on 22 November 2007.

For details see (only in Estonian):

<http://portaal.e-uni.ee/uudiskiri/e-vet/e-kutsekooli-parimad-e-kursused-2007>

The 9th Greek ICT Forum, recognised by the government as the most important Conference on the Information Society and ICT development, will take place 29-30 October, 2007 at the Intercontinental Hotel in Athens, Greece.

The Conference themes are:

- e-Government Strategies (29-30/10)
- Digital Channel and Sales (30/10)
- e-Security Trends (29-30/10)
- Business Telecoms and ICT Management (29-30/10)
- Information (29/106) Innovation and Entrepreneurship (30/10)

See for more information: <http://www.ictplus.gr> (only in Greek)

Regulator Ofcom has added its voice to the growing debate about how the UK should roll out super-fast broadband. It has launched a consultation, running until December, to probe into ways to keep UK net services up to par with those of other nations. Current broadband speeds have a natural limit which are unlikely to satisfy growing consumer demand for bandwidth.

See the full story at:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/technology/7013022.stm>

IMPRINT

NETIS is available on the web:

Project website: <http://www.netisproject.eu>,

E-learning environment: <http://netis.nyme.hu>

Blog: <http://netis.edublogs.org>

This Newsletter was edited by Robert Pinter (r.pinter@netisproject.eu) and Krisztina Szabo (christina.sabo@netisproject.eu) and written by NETIS project members: Erika Kurucz, Kerstin Siakas, Malcolm Read, Chris Sadler, Tarmo Kalvet and Istvan Bessenyei.

Please send your comments, observations and proposals directly to the editor's email address: christina.sabo@netisproject.eu

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