



Adult Education in 21. Century

Petja Janžekovič,

petja.janzekovic@luptuj.org

Public University of Ptuj (Slovenia)

Abstract

Future of education lies within modern social and educational networks highly dependent on ICT. With promotion of ICT usage in education (distant learning) we provide basis for future generations. We cannot stop progress therefore the best solution is to try and adapt to it. Promoters of distant learning education and all of its benefits (and obstacles, of course) could only be those that really need them: small countries, areas with scarce population, low income areas, drop-outs, and unemployed. Why? Although EU states it's direction towards "virtual education" and motivates organizations for application of ICT-based projects that deal with it, in reality we still lack the availability of modern, user-oriented educational systems that would allow soft transit of paleontological educational methods, methodologies and didactic approaches into 21th Century: necessity of lifelong learning as priority for social cohesion, importance of EU support for non-formal education (therefore it should be ICT-based, flexible and, in the first place and most importantly – free for everybody. Therefore we are dealing with situation non plus ultra – only adaptation of used learning methods and standardization of e-learning as equal to classical methods of education in EU can bring us towards future, but the today' reality still seems to be holding a hard grasp on its widely rooted and very firm base of didactical, methodological and successful structures of education. Objectives in near future as answer to numbered problems: support of networks for distant learning, motivated teachers with in-service training abilities for application of virtual classrooms and methodologies of e-learning, upgrade of didactical methods from ex-catedra towards off-catedra, sophisticated methods of communication with participants in lifelong learning.

- Direction towards modern ideas of education as objectives for distant future:
- Modern didactics with ICT support – exactly from this point we can disseminate qSchool-idea;
- Necessity of lifelong learning – wide range of non-formal educational programs with methods of evaluation and validation;
- Open-source Availability– strict distinction between formal and non-formal education with stressed advantage of free non-formal education.

Because it's based on distant learning, virtual classrooms and is, hence, totally participant oriented, it must be our duty to promote activities of "virtual education" and importance of them for modern European Citizen. She or he will namely be internet-educated, ICT user-friendly and constantly without time or money for formal education.