E-Learning - An Essential Component of Modern University Education

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Abstract

With the development of new ICT the range of information resources increases and conditions for the formation of a global educational and cultural space are developed. In relation to this there are changes to the system of education in the XXI century itself. As a response to the European priorities the E-learning program of the European parliament and the Council of Europe has taken root into the knowledge society.

The present paper shows how European priorities find their way into the educational practices in Bulgarian university education, specifically South-West University.

E-learning presents a unity of two key components: 1) Objective prerequisites which the university supplies in order to facilitate the conduction of the educational process: Student access to Internet, computer labs, libraries. 2) Subjective prerequisites related to the activity of lecturers and students towards e-learning. This means: the inclusion of computer based learning materials in the process of teaching and evaluation.

The paper analyzes the e-culture of students and lecturers and the whole institutional environment of the university. Using empirical data gathered from group discussions with students and lecturers the aim of the project is to trace the opinion towards e-learning, the degree in which it has penetrated educational process and student preparation, the degree of interactive communication between professors and students. The conducted analysis is based upon ECDL, aimed towards the certifying of basic knowledge and skills for students to work with computers and in the Net.

An important conclusion of the paper is that e-learning improves the quality of the research activity, the learning process and the supporting their accordance to European standards. The paper confirms the necessity for innovation in the process for the preparation of students, enhancing their computer and media literacy stimulating the creative participation of lecturers, students, specialists and phd. students in the university.