

Nancy-Université
Université Nancy 2



Universität Bremen



UNIVERSITÉ PARIS
DAUPHINE

Finnish Virtual University
Suomen virtuaaliyliopisto · Finlands virtuella universitet



Universiteit Utrecht



Cooperation agreement

between:

Université Nancy 2

Politecnico di Milano

Universität Bremen – ZMML

Universitat Oberta de Catalunya

Université Paris-Dauphine

Suomen virtuaaliyliopisto

Umeå Universitet

Universiteit Utrecht

Uniwersytet Marii Curie-Skłodowskiej w Lublinie

Introduction

The eLene group has its origins in the 2003 report to the European Commission, DG Education and Culture "Virtual models of European universities: eLearning in higher education" and available on www.elearningeuropa.info. The first eight of the aforementioned institutions participated in the detailed case studies conducted for this report as part of the overall study of 200 European universities.

The partners met three times in 2003 and 2004 in order to define the strategic priority areas for the development of the use of ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) in higher education: **pedagogy**: teacher training in the pedagogical use of ICT in higher education; **technology**: mobile solutions; **organisation**: standardisation within the framework of the Bologna process; **strategy**: economics of eLearning.

Two of these areas have resulted in three successful projects in the European Commission eLearning programme, Virtual Campuses action: in pedagogy: **eLene-TT (2005-2006)** – Teacher training in the pedagogical use of ICT in higher education, **eLene-TLC (2007-2008)** – Preparing universities for the ne(x)t generation of students, both coordinated by Vidéoscop-Université Nancy 2; in strategy: **eLene-EE (2006-2008)** – economics of eLearning, coordinated by Umeå University.

Within the framework of eLene-TLC, an initial board of directors has been established on the basis of nomination by members of each institution and presided by François le Poutier, president of Université Nancy 2, the coordinating institution of eLene-TLC.

Subject

In order to formalise their cooperation in the field of technology supported teaching and learning, the aforementioned higher education institutions hereby express their will to collaborate in view of contributing to the European higher education space. The cooperation groups thus created will use the name **eLene** (eLearning network).

The institutions signing this cooperation agreement are the founding members of the eLene group. The group may extend its membership to include associate members on the condition of approval by the board of directors.

The headquarters of the group will be those of the institution occupying the presidency of the first board of directors, Université Nancy 2, 25 rue Baron Louis, 54001 Nancy cedex, France.

Nature and scope of the cooperation

The cooperation concerns the following areas:

- mutual consultation in the fields of strategic and operational development relating to technology supported teaching and learning;
- joint projects.

The nature and scope of each transnational cooperation project will be defined by specific agreements between the partners concerned.

In order to promote the group identity, the name eLene shall be used for any project involving the majority of the nine aforementioned institutions and/or where these partners constitute the majority of any partnership involving third party institutions.

Members agree to inform the other members of any proposals related to ICT in higher education that they are submitting to European funding programmes and shall privilege partnership with eLene members where appropriate.

No single member may act on behalf of another member.

No single member may use the eLene name or logo for communication purposes, activities or products other than those agreed jointly by the group, subject to acceptance by simple majority vote.

Functioning of the board of directors

The board of directors constitutes the official representative body of the group. It is made up of a minimum of 1 (one) and up to 3 (three) representatives of each member institution including for each the legal representative (president, rector or equivalent) and/or up to 2 (two) operational representatives (vice-president or ICT delegates, directors of ICT or multimedia department).

On signing the present cooperation agreement, this board of directors validates the nomination of its members for a period of 2 (two) years, subject to the renewal of the member institutions' legal representatives by election or nomination or to the reorganisation of departments within each institution. Any replacement of a member following such changes shall be validated by a vote expressed by at least one member of the board of directors per member institution.

The presidency of the board of directors will pass from one member to another every 2 (two) years on the anniversary of the signature of the present cooperation agreement and in the following order: Université Nancy 2, Politecnico di Milano, Universität Bremen, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, Université Paris-Dauphine, Suomen Virtuaaliyliopisto, Umeå Universitet, Universiteit Utrecht, Uniwersytet Marii Curie-Skłodowskiej w Lublinie.

Decisions shall be made on the basis of one institution, one vote, with a simple majority voting procedure. In the case of no majority, the institution occupying the presidency at the moment of voting shall have the casting vote.

Resources made available to the board of directors by each member

The board of directors shall meet face to face a minimum of once every 2 (years). The members commit to covering the travel and subsistence of at least one representative each should these costs not be covered by the budget of an ongoing project.

Each member shall nominate one person officially responsible for developing the cooperation on a project basis.

Role and responsibilities of the board of directors

The board of directors is in charge of:

- representing and promoting the eLene group, valorising the activities of the group (projects and exchanges) at national and European level;
- sharing and pooling information concerning the operational initiatives of each institution in the field of technology supported teaching and learning, including research activities;
- identifying opportunities for collaboration in the form of joint projects according to national and European strategic and policy priorities.

Duration of validity

The present cooperation agreement shall be valid for a period of 5 (five) years and shall be renewed for a further period of 5 (five) years if none of the 9 (nine) partners gives written notification of cancellation at least 6 (six) months before the expiry date of the present agreement. Any amendment to this cooperation agreement shall be made in writing and with the mutual agreement of the signing parties.

Modification or addition

Any modification or addition to the present cooperation agreement shall be established in writing by means of an amendment signed by the legal representative of each party.

Termination

Any member may leave the group by sending a registered letter to the president of the board of directors in office.

The present cooperation agreement may be terminated by majority vote.

Notwithstanding, the members agree to finalise any ongoing projects.

Any failure of a member institution to honour its obligations stated herein or within the framework of an eLene project will result in the termination of its membership of the group.

Settlement of disputes and applicable law

Should an amicable settlement prove impossible, the Administrative Court ('Tribunal Administratif') of Nancy shall be the sole competent court in the case of litigation between parties relating to the to the present cooperation agreement.

This cooperation agreement is governed by the laws of France.

The present cooperation agreement takes immediate effect after its approval and ratification by all partners upon the exchange of the signed documents.

Université Nancy 2

François le Poulthier
President



Date: - 6 OCT. 2008

Politecnico di Milano

Giulio Ballio
Rector

Date:

Universität Bremen

Wilfried Müller
Rector

Date:

Universitat Oberta de Catalunya

Imma Tubella
Rector

Date:

Université Paris-Dauphine

Laurent Batsch
President

Date:

Suomen virtuaaliyliopisto

Matti Jakobsson
Chairman FVU Advisory
Board, Rector University of
Vaasa

Date:

Umeå Universitet

Åsa Bergenheim
Pro-Vice-chancellor

Date:

Universiteit Utrecht

Mw. mr. Yvonne van Rooy
President

Date:

Uniwersytet Marii Curie-Skłodowskiej w Lublinie

Prof. dr hab. Andrzej
Dąbrowski

Date: