

NEXT STEPS OF GUIDE ASSOCIATION

Laura Ricci, Viviana Boccardi

GUIDE International Workshop 2008, held in Rome, on 15-16 May, at Università Telematica “Guglielmo Marconi”, represented a great opportunity for the participating institutions to share best practices and experiences in the fields of distance education and ICT, leading to the definition of the future objectives of GUIDE Association. In particular, a new operative structure, composed of nine Area Representatives, has been created, in order to have a more detailed view of the opportunities for cooperation in the field of new teaching methodologies and applications, implemented and promoted by national and international organizations, in the different geographical regions:

- NORTH AMERICA - Prof. David Guralnick, Kaleidoscope Learning (New York, USA) and Prof. Robert Robertson, Saint Leo University (Tampa, USA)
- CENTRAL & SOUTHERN AMERICA (Portuguese speaking countries) - Prof. João Vianney, University of Santa Catarina (Santa Catarina, Brazil)
- CENTRAL & SOUTHERN AMERICA (Spanish speaking countries) - Dr. Beatriz Fainholc, Centro de Diseño, Producción y Evaluación de Recursos Multimediales para el Aprendizaje (Buenos Aires, Argentina)
- AFRICA - Prof. Rachida Ajhoun, Université Mohammed V - Soussi (Rabat, Morocco)
- EUROPE - Prof. Krzysztof Gurba, Tischner European University (Krakow, Poland)
- MIDDLE EAST - Dr. Osama Mimi, Birzeit University (Birzeit, Palestine)
- CENTRAL & WESTERN ASIA - Prof. Guram Lezhava, Caucasus University (Tbilisi, Georgia)
- SOUTHERN & EASTERN ASIA - Prof. Emmanuel Meduri, Ambedkar Open University (Hyderabad, India)

The most important result which came out from the Workshop was the definition of new tasks, such as:

- the improvement of the capability to merge the experiences of the Members, in order to build up research projects in partnership;
- the organization of small thematic workshops, at regional/national level, dedicated to the exchange of the research results;

- the implementation of ICT for social, cultural and economic growth, especially in developing countries;
- the realization of a global cooperation model for open universities with different cultural, social and economic backgrounds.

In order to actively engage the Area representatives in the accomplishment of the above mentioned objectives, the first GUIDE Board Virtual Meeting has been held on Tuesday, 3 June 2008 by using the Università Telematica “Guglielmo Marconi” Web platform.

The new proposals suggested by several Area Representatives address the opportunity to foster and manage development programmes and projects in less favoured areas.

In addition, they are asked to find the best solutions to draw on EU funds for financing national/international projects, considering the great importance of the GUIDE network in the field of distance education.

The implementation of research projects concerning e-learning and quality benchmarking in international cooperation and networking will represent a constant activity of the Members.