

European E-Learning Funding Background

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION - EUROPEAN UNION E-LEARNING FUNDING

1. Director General Regional Policy - Introduction.....	2
1.1. Structural Funds.....	2
1.2. Cohesion Fund	3
2. (EMTF) Educational Multimedia Task Force	4
3. Recommendations.....	4
3.1. The challenge	4
3.1.1. Political relationships.....	4
3.1.2. Establishing Hughes Presence.....	5

1. Director General Regional Policy - Introduction

The Directorate General for Regional Policy is responsible for European Community action to promote economic and social cohesion aimed at reducing the gaps in socio-economic development between the different regions of the European Union. Structural Funds are the umbrella for regional aid. The main responsibilities of the DG for Regional Policy are the management of three major funds:

- The ERDF (European Regional Development Fund), which operates in all fifteen Member States;
- The Cohesion Fund, which contributes to environmental and transport projects in the four Member States whose GNP is less than 90% of the Community average (Spain, Portugal, Greece and Ireland);
- The Instrument for ISPA (Structural policies for Pre-Accession), which helps the central and eastern European countries applying for membership to improve the environmental situation and develop transport networks.

The Regional Policy DG uses these three Funds to finance programmes and projects presented by the competent national and/or regional authorities in the Member States concerned

The Regional Policy DG is based in Brussels and headed by Director-General Guy Crauser.

Political responsibility for the department lies with Michel Barnier, Member of the Commission of the European Union.

1.1. Structural Funds

The Structural Funds have a budget of EUR 213 billion for the period 2000-06. They target financial assistance under three Objectives, which comprise 93% of the budget, and four Community Initiatives, which comprise 5.35% of the budget).

Resources under the Structural Funds are allocated on the basis of programming periods: the previous programming period ran from 1994 to 1999; the present period is 2000-06. Financial assistance is in the form of non-refundable grants channelled in three ways:

- Objective programmes (94%)
- Community Initiative Programmes (5.35%)
- Innovative measures.(0.65%)

Designated authorities in the Member States manage programs, whereas the Commission manages innovative measures itself. The aid is administered through the following categories.

Objective 1

Development and structural adjustment of regions whose development is lagging behind (EUR 135.9 billion)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION - EUROPEAN UNION E-LEARNING FUNDING

Objective 2

Economic and social conversion of areas facing structural difficulties (EUR 22.5 billion)

Objective 3

Adaptation and modernization of national policies and systems of education, training and employment (EUR 24.05 billion).

Community Initiatives

This category (EUR 10.44 billion) addresses the following areas.

- Interreg III: cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation;
- Urban: regeneration of urban areas in crisis
- Leader +: rural development by local action groups
- Equal: transnational cooperation to fight against discrimination and inequality in access to work.

Two funds are used as the delivery instruments. They are

- the Cohesion Fund
- European Regional Development Fund

Objective 3 serves as a reference framework for all measures to promote human resources in the Member States. It takes account of the title on employment in the Treaty of Amsterdam and the new European strategy for employment.

The Regulation takes account of the policies, practices and needs of the Member States as laid down in their national employment plan. For the period 2000-06, Objective 3 will support a wide range of measures to:

- promote active labor market policies to combat unemployment;
- improve access to the labor market, with particular emphasis on those exposed to social exclusion;
- enhance employment opportunities through lifelong education and training programs;
- promote measures which enable social and economic changes to be identified in advance and the necessary adaptations to be made;
- promote equal opportunities for men and women.

1.2. Cohesion Fund

The Cohesion Fund provides money for environmental and trans-European transport network projects in the Member States of the Union whose GDP is less than 90% of the EU average.

The Fund was created by the Maastricht Treaty in 1993 and is intended to strengthen economic and social cohesion by helping the least prosperous states to participate in economic and monetary union. The Fund has enabled Spain, Portugal, Ireland and Greece to meet the convergence criteria for economic and monetary union and at the same time continues to invest in infrastructure to step up their development.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION - EUROPEAN UNION E-LEARNING FUNDING

The four beneficiary countries in 2000-06 are, as before (1993-99), Spain, Portugal, Greece and Ireland. Despite the progress they have made, these countries' GDP still falls short of 90% of the Community average. Their eligibility will, however, be reviewed in the light of updated GDP data.

The Cohesion Fund's budget for 2000-06 is EUR 18 billion.

2. (EMTF) Educational Multimedia Task Force

The EMTF (Educational Multimedia Task Force) was set up on the initiative of European Commissioners Edith Cresson and Martin Bangemann to study and develop educational and cultural products and services accessible via television sets, computers and networks in Europe. EMTF is a joint initiative of the European Commission DG III, DG XII, DG XIII, DG XXII involving the following programmes:

RTD&D

- Telematics Applications
- Information Technologies
- Targeted Socio-Economic Research

Education & Training

- Socrates
- Leonardo da Vinci

Trans-European Networks

- TEN - Telecom

3. Recommendations

3.1. The challenge

Objective 3 covers the entire EU territory. In Objective 1 areas, Objective 3 measures are integrated into programming with the other measures for the development and adjustment of structures. This may make it difficult to precisely track e-Learning initiatives and spending.

The Regional Policy DG uses these three Funds to finance programmes and projects presented by the competent national and/or regional authorities in the Member States concerned. Designated authorities in the Member States manage programs, whereas the Commission manages innovative measures itself.

3.1.1. Political relationships

Hughes would have to establish a working relationship with the Directorate General Regional Policy. This could facilitate identifying the Member State designated authorities who are proposing specific e-Learning proposals.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION - EUROPEAN UNION E-LEARNING FUNDING

Hughes would then have to work with various Member State designated authorities to develop viable e-Learning projects that meet Objective 3 requirements.

Hughes should establish a relationship with the Directorate-General for Education and Culture to stay abreast of the Leonardo, Socrates education initiatives, national coordinators and annual project themes.

Hughes would have to work with educational stakeholders such as associations and groups to inform them of EU funding opportunities and procedures.

Hughes could possibly assist these groups in preparing viable e-Learning proposals, which could showcase Hughes' solutions.

Contacts - November 2001

list of european associations and social partners in the field of education – 106 page list of all educational related associations and potential partner for e-Learning projects.

3.1.2. Establishing Hughes Presence

Hughes should be attending e-Learning summits and be actively participating in Leonardo, Socrates and Tempus activities to introduce and establish a Hughes brand presence in learning initiatives at all levels.

e-Learning Summit

A group of 25 leading companies in the IT, telecommunications, audio-visual, training, broadcasting and publishing industries are working together with the European Commission to deliver the first European eLearning Summit in Brussels on May 10th & 11th 2001.

The "eLearning Summit" is a working session for the public and private sectors to address the challenge of delivering e-Learning as a strategic development across Europe, and to produce a set of goals for delivering eLearning, which combine the expertise, and resources of the sectors in new Public Private Partnerships. It will bring together 250 invited leaders from EU governments, the education and training sector, and a broad representation of companies delivering eLearning services in Europe.

The listed sponsors are Cisco Systems, IBM, Nokia, SanomaWSOY, SmartForce 'the e-learning company', 3Com, BBC, British Telecom, Centra, CompTIA, Intel, Microsoft and TEDS.

Netd@ys

In previous years, the key objective of Netd@ys was to raise awareness about the possibilities of using the new media such as the Internet, videoconference or new audio-visual facilities as resources for learning and teaching.

The main objective of Netd@ys 2001 19-25 Nov 2001 is the development of projects which demonstrate good quality educational content. The preferred means of achieving this goal is to encourage partnerships between different organisations. These include youth and cultural organisations and other organisations in the public and private sectors.

School participation has contributed enormously to the success of Netd@ys. In 2001, the eSchola initiative, a project of the European Schoolnet and supported by the European Commission, will concentrate on the schools sector. eSchola promotes learning and

BACKGROUND INFORMATION - EUROPEAN UNION E-LEARNING FUNDING

working together online, celebrating success in the use of new technologies in Europe's classrooms. eSchola week is between 7 and 11 May 2001. See <http://eschola.eun.org> for further details.

Funding will be allocated to the National Correspondents who represent Member States. The 2001 list is found at <http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/netdays/natcoord.html> .

The allocation of additional resources to National Correspondents should reinforce their role and enable them to create and promote communication plans and to encourage more labelled projects which meet the particular interests in their countries. Their role is to: promote local, regional and national initiatives and link them to Netd@ys Europe inform a wide public organise and promote the national Netd@ys help to raise funds from potential private partners establish contacts with the other countries.

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Significance

In 2000, there were about 300 [Netd@ys](#) projects, 150,000 organisations participated from 85 countries and the Netd@ys European website received over 8million hits.

Socrates

The Leonardo da Vinci Community vocational training action programme, introduced in 1994, is now entering its second phase, which will run from 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2006. Overall responsibility lies with the European Commission - Directorate-General for Education and Culture.

In SOCRATES there are two types of Actions:

the "centralised Actions" which are run by the Commission. Application forms for the centralised Actions can be found below. the "decentralised Actions" which are run by the National Agencies.

National authorities are listed in this file <file:///C:/My Documents/marcus-evans2/michelle-research/eu-learn/e-learn/socrates-localagencies.html>

Educational partners are listed in

C:\My Documents\marcus-evans2\michelle-research\eu-learn\e-learn\list-eduj-partners.pdf

Socrates' sub headings are listed below

- COMENIUS - School education
- ERASMUS - Higher education
- GRUNDTVIG - Adult education and other educational pathways
- LINGUA - Language teaching and learning

BACKGROUND INFORMATION - EUROPEAN UNION E-LEARNING FUNDING

- MINERVA - Information and communication technologies in education
- Observation & Innovation - Educational systems and policies (Arion, Naric)
- Joint Actions with other Community programs
- Accompanying Measures

The Minerva Action seeks to promote European co-operation in the field of Open and Distance Learning (ODL) and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in education.

The Action has three main objectives,

- (1) to promote understanding among teachers, learners, decision-makers and the public at large of the implications of MINERVA and ICT for education, as well as the critical and responsible use of ICT for educational purposes;
- (2) to ensure that pedagogical considerations are given proper weight in the development of ICT and multimedia-based educational products and services; and
- (3) to promote access to improved methods and educational resources as well as to results and best practices in this field.

European Commission

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION - EUROPEAN UNION E-LEARNING FUNDING

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17. Researcher Biography

17.1. Mike Brassard, Researcher and Editor

Holding degrees in History from University of Toronto and Education from Queens, Mike is a methodical researcher and writer. He has researched and written articles in the defense industry as well as edited and contributed to a quarterly automotive magazine. Mike has a decade of quality assurance experience and has written industrial radiography operating procedures in the nuclear industry. The *FY2001 Compaq Telecom Market Analysis Report* is Mike's first editing assignment with the market analysis group where he edited the Report and researched the CRM players. The Hughes Network Systems e-Learning project is his second assignment with the market analysis group where he edited the Report as well as researched and wrote Appendix D Detailed Private Sector Profiles.