



# **European Association of Distance Teaching Universities**

**Sputnic Seminar  
19th December 2007**

# Objectives of Mobility of Students

Motivation of students to study abroad is mainly characterized by two objectives:

- to gain international experience and competence, and
- to approach other (often more specialised) study opportunities

# Forms of Mobility of Students

## Physical Mobility (PM)

- on-site: physical travel & stay in a country abroad
- for limited period
- takes substantial amount of time / creates additional cost
- student experiences face-to-face activities and meetings, teaching and the everyday life of the country
- social, cultural and educational enrichment

## Virtual Mobility (VM)

- from home, university or work place / no physical stay abroad
- no restrictions in length of time spent studying
- time and cost effective
- no face-to-face activities
- access to courses and study schemes in foreign country; *communication* with teachers and fellow students abroad via ICT
- educational experience (interaction: intercultural competences)



# Four major advantages of Virtual Mobility

- It contributes to the quality of the academic education and lifelong learning for those students disadvantaged in their mobility by being engaged in their professional and/or family life.
- By providing supplementary courses Virtual Mobility enables students to further individualise and specialise their portfolio.
- The concept of studying only a portion of a degree at a foreign university based on firm agreements makes it relatively easy to have an academic international experience.
- It puts Higher Education institutions in the position to internationalise their curriculum and to fulfil part of their mission to offer their students education on an international level.



# E-MOVE project

- (1) **Test-bed “a virtual stay abroad”** will focus on the *international* exchange of distance teaching course modules in the framework of a study-programme. *multilateral course exchange scheme* (<http://www.eadtu.nl/academic-networks/humanities/>)
  
- (2) **Case-study on European Virtual Seminar (EVS)**  
**Joint courses, degrees and study programmes:** The European Virtual Seminar (EVS) is a joint course that promotes an international, multidisciplinary dialogue between students on authentic and current issues, using modern ICT and the Internet to overcome the constraints of place and time. The students participate in heterogeneous groups, in terms of nationality, discipline, institution and gender. Universities offer different roles in a partnership setting.  
(<http://www.ou.nl/eCache/DEF/90/085.html>)
  
- (3) **Test-bed “virtual community”** will *create a virtual workspace* with time-independent and place-independent access for an international community of students, teachers and practitioners. In the *Virtual Campus* students complete several assignments in a virtual workspace and through collaborating in an international community of students. ([www.e-move.org](http://www.e-move.org))

Feature	Virtual Stay Abroad	European Virtual Seminar	Virtual Campus
General description	See below + comment		
Discipline	Disciplinary	Multidisciplinary	Disciplinary
Size	One module	Joint Seminar	Activity within a course
Activity	Taking a course @ a foreign university	Working on case studies in a multinational and – disciplinary group	Working on assignments in multinational groups
Enrolment	@ host university	@ home university	@ home university
Language	National languages or common	Common	Common
Assessment	Virtual and/or face-to-face	Virtual	Virtual
Credit Transfer	Yes	No	No
Fees	Yes, regular fees of host university	No	No
Access to library resources/course materials	Distance Teaching and traditional universities Via host university	Via web-links If need be via home university	Via web-links and home university
Extra time to invest in teaching	Very low	Medium	Medium
Extra time to invest in administrative support	Low	Medium - high	Low
Partnership	Two and more Mainly Distance Teaching but also traditional universities	Three and more Distance Teaching and traditional universities	Two and more Distance Teaching and traditional universities
Institutional agreements needed	Yes on credit transfer and accepting students	No	No



# CSVM

## Cross sector Virtual Internships

- EADTU offers a matchmaking service **for organisations** that wish to address a business challenge but currently have limited resources (time, space, money) and **for students** who are looking for state-of-the-art working credentials.
- Remote internships: targeting talented distance education students and top-class business assignments.
- Offers: <http://www.eadtu.nl/internships/default.asp?page=3&lang=nl>

# Pedagogical models

**Table 1.** Pedagogical models and different accents

Pedagogical model	Model accent	Key characteristics
1	Process-oriented	Competency development, process reflection, self-study, process steps, control, instructional learning, autonomous
2	Output-oriented	Product development, student and employer reflection, inter-organizational products and control, assessment of products, benchmarks
3	Mixed-mode	Self-directed learning, skills and competences serving the organization

**Emphasis on trial and error?**

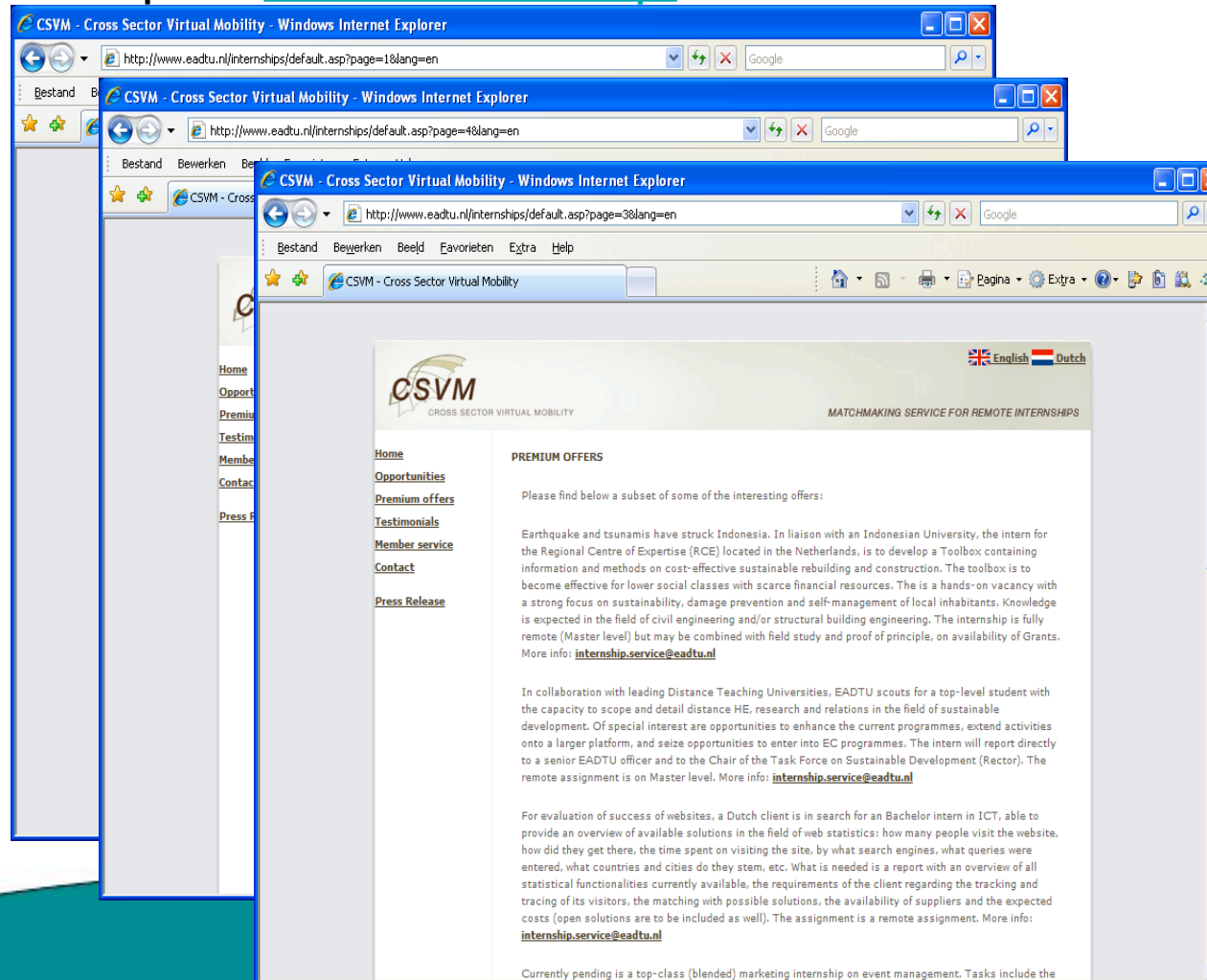
**Situational combinations?**

**Employer satisfaction?**



# Remote internship matchmaking platform

Interim portal: [www.eadtu.nl/internships](http://www.eadtu.nl/internships)



**Matchmaking:**

Different models

Different pedagogies



# Net-Active

The main aim of this project is to increase the virtual mobility of students in third countries through European Masters.

- NetACTIVE's first objective is to develop the necessary tools for the mobility of Latin American studies together with European higher education institutions.
- The second objective of NetACTIVE is to broadcast the European Masters available in fields of study of particular interest to third countries.

Whereas the first objective is focused on Latin America, the second has a worldwide perspective. (<http://www.net-active.info/>)



# EDU-CONTACT

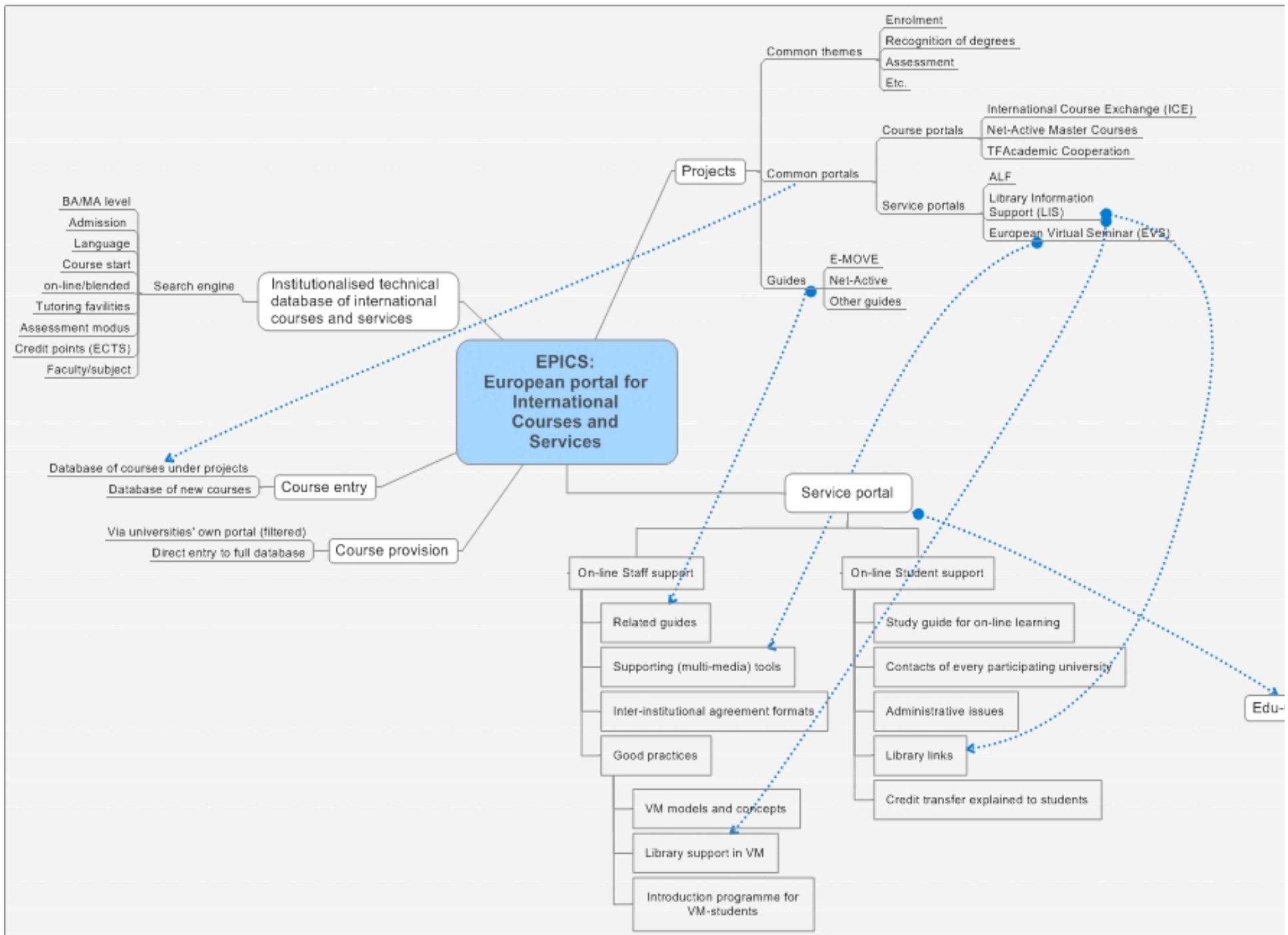
- EduContact services will personally inform students who wish to study at European distance universities while staying in their own countries ([www.educontact.eu](http://www.educontact.eu))



# EPICS

## European Portal for International Courses and services

- The next step for EADTU is to further **develop Virtual Mobility in Virtual Erasmus**. By opening each other's university programmes we open a world of new and specialised courses for our students and enable them to build highly individualised study programmes.
- **Concept:** Students looking for international courses can find a selection of these on their own university's website, but provided from the central platform EPICS. It is a facilitated platform to be administered by the course providers.
- EPICS is **not just a database** of courses, but a fully supported offering of European distance education.
- In EPICS we will **integrate the available knowledge and expertise on VM** by its consortium of experts in this field.
- **Improved accessibility and attractiveness**  
The consortium of virtual mobility experts will explore barriers and opportunities of EPICS with a special focus on accessibility restricting factors like student admission, fee structures, assessment modes etc.





## Recognition only guaranteed if mobility is based on:

- *Trust between institutions*: mutual awareness amongst the institutions involved and the reliability of quality education.
- *Agreements*: bilateral to guarantee support to students
- *Quality assurance* systems should be applied. The need to accredit the quality of all university institutions and of the education provided.
- *Transparent information*: students and staff
- *Flexibility*: there are still huge organisational differences as to syllabuses, grading systems, methods for completing the courses, etc., even amongst universities in the same country. Consequently, the maximum flexibility should be applied, notwithstanding the necessary strictness, to any academic recognition carried out between different universities.[\[1\]](#)
- *Innovative methods* that facilitate learning, by incorporation ICTs into the educational scenario.



Thank you for your attention  
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