Papers on ODL policy

Introduction by Erling Ljoså

The "ODL Policy Seminar" is a project in the framework of the SOCRATES programme of the European Union. The purpose of the project is to contribute to the creation of a common basis of understanding among European decision makers (at national and regional level) involved in policy definition, implementation and assessment in the field of Open and Distance Learning. The project proposed the organisation of a yearly seminar in the field of ODL. The first seminar took place on 15-18 October in Florence, Italy. It aimed in particular towards creating a framework for common actions, exchange of experience, and reflections.

The seminar was attended by 23 people, of which 6 representatives of national Ministries of Educations, 3 Rectors of European Universities, 1 of Regional Administrations, 12 advisors and experts at national or European level and one representative of the European Commission - DG XXII.

We offer here an overview of the main results of the seminar together with a selection of some of the papers presented. All the papers and the more detailed description of discussion are contained in the Final Report, which is available at the project website. A permanent electronic forum on ODL policy is at the moment being planned by the project.

The individual papers selected for presentation in EURODL are:

- Claudio Dondi: Executive summary of the ODL Policy Seminar in Florence
- Claudio Dondi: Main trends in policy orientation
- Eric Barchechath: A tool for mapping policies
- Claudio Dondi: An approach to ODL policy from TRIBUNE (DELTA programme 1992-94)
- Walter F Kugemann: Policy making and implementation: two strategic phases for the uptake of ODL
- Elliot Stern: The evaluation of the Teaching and Learning Technology Programme of the UK Higher Education Funding Council

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