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EDITORIAL

I have two fliers stating that the aim of the European Distance Education Network (EDEN) is: "to foster developments in distance education through the provision of a platform for co-operation and collaboration between institutions, networks and other agencies in this field in Europe. Particularly, it has an important challenge to assist in the development of collaboration between Western Europe and the new initiatives in Central and Eastern Europe. EDEN will also strengthen ties with non-European associations and institutions in close co-operation with the International Council for Distance Education (ICDE)."

With the help of Kerry Mann, DEOSNEWS now distributes the first issue of the EDEN Newsletter. If you have any questions arising from articles in this newsletter, would like to contribute to the next issue of the EDEN newsletter due out in March 1993, or wish to receive more information about EDEN, please contact Ms Kerry Mann, Executive Secretary, EDEN, PO Box 92, Milton Keynes, MK7 6DX, United Kingdom. Tel: (44) 908 652468, Fax: (44) 908 654374, E-mail: K.A.MANN@OPEN.AC.UK

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EDEN NEWSLETTER 1
NOVEMBER, 1992

CREATING LINKS

- * A word from the President, Erling Ljosa *

I sometimes ask myself who we are, we who have been grasped by a lasting interest in this strange thing, distance education. Are we a gang of outcasts, people who for some accidental reason have stepped outside the more firmly established educational society? Are we technological wizards who think learning is oozing out of machines and cables? Or are we the true visionaries looking into and trying to create the future structures of education?

Perhaps it doesn't matter. I know we represent a huge variety of competencies, interests and experience. We are working in very different settings of society and organization, and we often tend to cluster accordingly in particular interest groups and specialized networks; this is only natural. On the other hand it may reduce the range of impulses we receive, limit our fantasy and our repertoire of action.

The very existence of a network as broad and as open as EDEN attempts to be, seems to me to be a great achievement. Creativity and development need a variety of impulses and a combination of different perspectives. This is the first rationale for a broad network. The second important thing is that it may create links: between individuals, between institutions and between various kinds of other networks. Links will develop through contacts, and may be spontaneous or become permanent. They depend on the mutual benefits of the relations that are established.

The future of EDEN will grow from our ability to create links across national and regional boundaries, and between people and institutions with either similar or quite different experience, but with common interests and aims in the field of distance learning. Europe is a fragile and complex mixture of societies and people. I hope that by creating new and stronger links in one of the growing fields of education and training, EDEN will contribute significantly to the development of educational opportunities within the whole of Europe.

1992 EDEN CONFERENCE

* A report from the Executive Secretary, Kerry Mann *

The first annual EDEN Conference was held at the Academy of Mining and Metallurgy in Krakow, Poland on 15-17 June, 1992. The event was hosted by the Rector of the Academy, Professor Jan Janowski, and organised by the EDEN Secretariat in close cooperation with members of the Geology Faculty in Krakow. The Conference was seen to be a great success and achieved its main aim in bringing together distance educators and those interested in distance teaching from both Eastern and Western Europe.

The event attracted almost 120 delegates representing both countries across Europe and a wide range of interests in the private sectors. Special guests included Professor Andrzej Stelmahowski, the Polish Minister of Education, Mr Tadeusz Mateusz, from the Municipal Government of Krakow and Dr Tadeusz Zoltowski, from the Bureau of Cabinet in the Polish Government.

The programme covered a large number of topics with keynote speeches on Social change in society and special needs for distance education in Eastern and Central Europe from Professor Tadeusz

Diem of the Polish Government, and Distance education and its increasing importance from Professor Armando Rocha Trindade, of the Universidade Aberta, Portugal.

Panel sessions covering topics including the TEMPUS programme, private provision in distance education, the role of broadcasting in distance learning and an exploration of the possibilities of involvement for the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (ERBD) in distance education were interspersed with a schedule of lively workshops. These workshops covered topics related to the main theme and explored, more closely, issues including the management of distance education, the use of outside funding, quality in open learning and the presentation of several case studies. A report was also made to the conference of EDEN's first major venture as a network which has been a TEMPUS feasibility study on distance education in Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland.

The conference closed with the first Annual General Meeting. At this meeting approval was granted for the EDEN's Action Plan for 1992-93, which included: the continued building and establishment of EDEN as a network; creating a focus on Central and Eastern Europe; following up the recommendations from the TEMPUS feasibility study by discussion with national governments, other relevant networks and member networks and institutions; and developing and strengthening activities of the Academic and Professional Section of EDEN, which was formally launched at the conference.

THE ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL SECTION

* Alan Tait, The Open University *

EDEN's Academic and Professional Section held its inaugural meeting during the EDEN conference in Krakow. The Academic and Professional Section aims to provide a vehicle for the professional development of colleagues in open and distance learning across the whole of Europe. It will reflect the wide range of educational interest in education at both secondary and tertiary levels, in training and vocational development, in broadcasting, and in enterprises. It was agreed at the meeting in Krakow that the following range of activities would be appropriate:

- * Conferences and seminars
- * Staff exchanges and secondments
- * Specialist grouping eg. research; management; student support, course writing; evaluation etc.

The ideas were generated by the 50 or so people present at the meeting, and it was resolved to work towards the first Academic and Professional Section Conference which will take place in Cambridge UK in September 1993 (see below)

The Academic and Professional Section of EDEN will complement EDEN's main work. It will be open to all practitioners on the European regional basis. Those interested in finding out more about the Academic and Professional Section are invited to contact Ms Kerry Mann, Executive Secretary, EDEN (address supplied on the back page)

1993 EDEN CONFERENCES

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QUALITY AND TECHNOLOGY IN DISTANCE EDUCATION:
THE EAST/WEST DIALOGUE

10-12 May, 1993 the Logenhaus Conference Centre, Berlin, Germany

The second annual EDEN Conference will be devoted to the combined themes of Quality and Technology. Open and Distance learning is presently mediated through a wide variety of media and methods of support. The relationship between the quality of student experience and the systems used to deliver and support it will be explored in plenary and workshops. Workshop sessions will explore the uses and impact of media such as Television/Video, CD-ROM, Radio/Audio Cassette, Computers (Standalone, Network, and Computer-Mediated-Communication) and Interactive Video, with on-line demonstrations. Follow-up sessions, both in workshop and plenary mode, will explore the quality issues related to the use and evaluation of these media in distance and open learning, as well as the distribution and student services associated with distance learning systems.

The conference will share a combined day with the AECS Annual Conference, whose theme covers issues of quality, advertising and marketing. It will provide a balance of plenary and workshop sessions; numbers will be limited to 150 by the size of the conference accommodation.

The conference will be organised by the Conference Programme Committee and the EDEN Secretariat in the UK. For further details please contact: Ms Kerry Mann, Executive Secretary, EDEN (address supplied on back page)

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QUALITY ASSURANCE IN OPEN AND DISTANCE LEARNING:
EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES

28-30 September 1993 Downing College Cambridge

The first EDEN Academic and Professional Section Conference will be particularly interesting to colleagues wishing to discover and contribute to the professional community in open and distance learning in the wider Europe. The conference will address the issues for open and distance learning of Quality Assurance. Quality Assurance has been adopted in many educational and training institutions, and there is wide interest in the processes and methods which aim to ensure that learners' needs are met. Challenging and critical perspectives will be encouraged as well as the contribution of practical experience from leading experts from a number of countries.

The conference will be participative in style, and numbers will be limited in order to ensure this aspect. There will be a particular emphasis on the pan-European dimension.

The conference will be organised for EDEN by the UK Open University's Cambridge Centre, in association with Empire State

College, New York and Laurentian University, Canada.

Colleagues in countries eligible for support from TEMPUS funding are invited to apply to TEMPUS national offices.

For further details please contact: Alan Tait or Roger Mills, EDEN A&P Conference, Open University, 12 Hills Road, Cambridge, CB2 1PF, UK. Tel: +44 223 64721 Fax: +44 223 355207

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SAIDE LAUNCHING CONFERENCE

* Report by Professor Zofia Sokolewicz, University of Warsaw *

Professor Sokolewicz was invited to attend the SAIDE Conference as a representative of EDEN. She presented a report, on the nature of distance education in Poland, to the delegates in Johannesburg.

The South African Institute of Distance Education was created as the result of extensive consultations within South Africa as a result of an initiative by John Samuel, Head of Education of African National Congress and Lord Michael Young of the International Extension College.

The Institute was set up as a resource centre, a provider of specialised advice, support and training and with the purpose of promoting coordination and sharing between institutions. It will promote educational innovation through distance and open learning methods in an attempt to "add value" to current educational provision, according to David Adler, consultant director of SAIDE.

The rapid transformation underway in the Republic of South Africa was the reason the SAIDE decided to launch the conference, which was carefully designed by Professor Don Swift, previously the Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the Open University UK and the founding Director of the Open Learning Institute of Hong Kong, and David Alder consultant director of the SAIDE.

The conference was held from 7-9 September, 1992 in Johannesburg, South Africa and its aim was to consider "the part that distance learning can play in addressing educational needs for the new South Africa. Education was regarded by most of the participants as central field both for politics, economics, self government and civic society". Minister of National Education, Mr P G. Marais, has described the establishment of a sound learning culture as one of the most crucial facets in any education system. The essential element, according to Mr Marais, is the support and involvement of all role-players and groups of interest. The change of the education system in South Africa depends, however, upon political changes, mainly changes in the Constitution; representatives of Government, of the House of Delegates and the House of Representatives were present.

The political parties (the African National Congress, and the Democratic Party) through their very presence and active participation in discussion, stressed the significance of education in the framework of their respective political programmes; the idea of "the lost generation" was identified. It seems to be the one of most urgent problems needing to be solved.

The very special characteristics of the planned education system is the possible numbers of students. Dr J. G. Garbers, director General of National Education, said there is the demand from approximately two million children to be incorporated into the formal education system. Between five and eight million people fall under the category of marginalized youth. How many adults?

These numbers explain why the organisers are trying to build up the system of distance learning, which to some extent exists in South Africa with UNISA, TECHNIKON RSA, TECHNISA, private colleges etc. The challenge is much greater these days. Experienced institutions, representing the third generation of distance education, were asked to organise an exhibition of new medias and technologies used in distance education systems all over the world. University exhibitors such as the UK Open University through to International institutions (International Extension College, International Centre for Distance Learning UK) were present. Delegates could also learn from Athabasca University (Canada), Deakin University (Australia), the University of Southern Queensland (Australia), the Open Polytechnic of New Zealand and New Zealand Correspondence School, the Allama Iqbal Open University (Pakistan), the Open Learning Institute of Hong Kong, the Indira Gandhi National Open University (India), Tafe Distance Learning (Australia), Wisconsin (USA) and the African organisations of distance education including the University of Nairobi, Unisa, Technikon RSA, Technisa, and the University of Zimbabwe.

The opening speeches were delivered by politicians, two of whom have already been mentioned, the third was Mr S. Macozoma, NEC Member, African National Congress. Keynote speeches were presented by Mr F.A. Sonn, Rector of Peninsula Technikon: The Future of Education in a Democratic South Africa, and Dr J Daniel, Vice Chancellor of the Open University UK: A worldwide perspective on Open Learning.

Most of the time was spent on group discussion. The introductory speeches were delivered by Professor G.S. Harley, UNISA (on Higher education), Mr J Gultig, University of Natal (on teacher education), Dr Z Vandyk rector of the Technikon RSA (on technical and vocational education) and Ms J Glennie from SACHED Trust (on primary/secondary adult education). The role of experts, among them Gottfried Leibbrandt from the Dutch National Commission for UNESCO, must also be emphasised. There was a panel discussion on distance education's institutions and programmes, course production and mass media as well as a further keynote speech by Dr. Seligman, chief technical adviser from UNESCO Distance Education project for the Indonesian Open Junior Secondary School on Third Generation Distance Education, The challenge of New Technology. The results of group discussions were presented during the final session with a closing speech of thanks given by Mr R Ramokgopa from the Development Bank of South Africa.

Due to the precise, careful planning of conference, the participants had the opportunity to learn what distance education means and how it is presented around the world. However, the question of how to use distance education in order to solve South African problems of restructuring both the economy and society seemed to be answerable. The difficulty of securing a clear solution was undoubtedly due to the immensely complex character of the South African problem both the

economic crisis and the social unrest.

DISTANCE EDUCATION IN HUNGARY

* Andr`s Szucs, Hungarian National Council for Distance Education *

In order to promote and co-ordinate the development of distance education, the National Council of Distance Education was established by the Hungarian Ministry of Education and Culture in December 1991. The Council consists of delegated members of the other governmental bodies, for example, the Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, the Chamber of Commerce, Hungarian Radio and Television etc. The President of the National Council is the Secretary of State of the Ministry of Education and Culture, Dr. Elemir Biszterszky, while the post of the Vice-President, responsible for international affairs, is held by Professor Tamas Lajos, Vice-President of EDEN.

The activity of the Council is supported by the National Board of Experts in Distance Education, in which the higher education institutions and the private distance education companies are equally represented. According to the strategy of the National Council, the development of the distance education in Hungary should be carried out on the basis of the higher education institutions, relying on the available, and only partly used, intellectual capacity concentrated in the universities.

The National Council of Distance Education has established in Hungary, the network of the regional distance education centres. Such centres, based on the evaluation of a tender advertised for the higher education institutions, have been established in the cities of Gvdvllv, Debrecen, Gysr, Veszprim, Szolnok and Pics. The TEMPUS Distance Education Joint European Project "PANNONIA", approved for 1992-95, to be carried out in co-operation with Italian, UK, Dutch, French, Portuguese and Finnish institutions, including SATURN, SCIENTER, CAMPO, FernUniversitat Hagen, and Cambridge Learning Systems UK, is also targeted on the development of the above regional centres of distance education in Hungary, by the training of 25 managers and 125 teachers of distance education.

The development of distance education in Hungary will be continued using the experience of the feasibility studies completed in the last year by the experts of the Open University, Milton Keynes, UK as well as a study prepared by EDEN under the TEMPUS programme.

SATURN

* Working together for a better trained Europe *

Since its very first days, SATURN has been involved in the Budapest Platform and EDEN activities. Referring to its overall objectives and based on its expertise as an active player within the European infrastructure for open and distance learning, SATURN wants to make sure that there is no unfruitful competition but prosperous complementarity between the different networks in this field. Thus, Friedhelm (Fred) Nicholmann, SATURN President from January 1991 to September 1992, agreed to become a member of the EDEN

Executive Committee as a representative from the networks already existing in Europe. The following article describes in brief SATURN's objectives and activities and it outlines SATURN's main lines of contribution to EDEN and TEMPUS.

SATURN, Europe's Open Learning Network, founded in 1986/87, is an independent European association of enterprises and education/training, producers, distributors and users in the field of open, distance and flexible, multimedia supported learning, with about eighty member institutions and an ever growing number of partners and clients from most European countries.

SATURN and its member institutions have an involvement both as major contractors and supporters of a large number of European, national and local training initiatives, in particular under the EC-initiatives COMETT, DELTA and TEMPUS; SATURN is recognised as a sectoral University Enterprise Training partnership (UETP) and is providing services and support to its member institutions, partners and clients and is active as an international network of organisations and experts.

SATURN is working with a European, multinational, multilingual staff based at its Head Office in Amsterdam and at its members' locations.

SATURN's main lines of contribution in the scope of the EDEN association and the TEMPUS programme would be

- information on existing infrastructures, services, products and experts
- advice on implementation of innovative approaches
- support with design of activities and projects
- management of activities and projects
- consultancy on marketing of products and services
- consultancy on quality in open and distance education and training.

SATURN is a partner/supporter in TEMPUS projects as follows:

FSZB: Joint European Study Centre Budapest (FernUniversitat Hagen/Germany)

IADET: Improving Activities for Distance Education and Training in Romania (IRID Bucharest/Romania)

PANNONIA: Open and Distance Learning in Higher Education in Hungary

During EDEN Conferences in Prague (1991) and Krakow (1992) SATURN has organised workshops on quality aspects in open and distance learning and given presentations on the European infrastructure for open and distance learning.

A full list of SATURN's publications is available; if you would like to receive a copy please contact the UK EDEN Secretariat Office.

For future information about SATURN, please contact the main office at the following address, SATURN Keizersgracht 756, NL - 1017 EZ Amsterdam. Tel: +31-20-6382441. Fax: +31-20-6382879. E-mail: Y-NET: BE: RTT: Y-NET/SP1/SATURN (X400 address) Y-NET: saturn@spl.y-net.be (RFC.822 address) GEONET: saturn@dcfmcl.das.net

THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON EXTERNAL MA/DIPLOMA IN
DISTANCE EDUCATION

* Report from Chris Yates of International Extension College *

With the recent expansion of distance education has come an increasing need for professional education and training in distance education. The International Extension College (IEC) bases in London and Cambridge have been offering a variety of training programmes in distance education since 1977. In 1990 the IEC, in collaboration with the University of London, launched a combined MA/Diploma programme in Distance Education. The programme is aimed at people currently working in distance education, or hoping to, and is available worldwide. It has been produced by an international team of more than 50 authors working in five continents.

The programme is in two parts. Part I consists of four compulsory full credit courses:

- Education and Development
- The Development of Distance Education
- Adult Learning and Communication in Distance Education
- The Organisation of Distance Education

After completing the four Part I courses students can choose to stop and be awarded the Diploma in Distance Education by the University of London; or they can go on to Part II and study for the Master of Arts degree.

Part II requires students to obtain three credits, of which one must be a project of 10,000 words. The remaining two credits are selected from the following half and full credit courses.

- The Management of Distance Education
- Electronic Media
- Distance Education for Non-formal Education
- The Design and Production of Print Materials
- English Language Teaching at a Distance
- Student Support Services
- Research and Evaluation

Candidates may also enrol as an Occasional Student and study just one or two courses as they wish. At present this option is restricted to courses from part I.

For further details about the International Extension College please contact, Lesley Duncan, Training Programmes Manager, International Extension College (1), 10 Woburn Square, London WC1H 0NS

ASSISTANCE AND PROJECT IN EDUCATION FOR POLAND

* Report from Christian Ladesou, CUEEP *

(Universiti des Sciences et Techniques de Lille Flandres-Artois)

The region Nord-Pas-de-Calais decided one year ago to help (1) two regions of Poland, Krakow and Katowice. This assistance consists of training education for firm managers and local government officers. It was decided that the CUEEP (2) would be the organiser of several

regional partners who had volunteered for the project (high schools, chambers of commerce, departments of the University and other training centres). Our main idea was to succeed in transferring our knowledge to Polish people in order to "polonize" this knowledge, which is why we have partners in Poland in universities, firms and local governments.

How do we work? First, either professors or specialists go to Poland and give conferences in French. The teaching is organized in one-week-periods (3). Among the learners there are Polish training officers or managers who will have to operate the transfer of knowledge in the years to come. Secondly the learners will come to France to visit firms, administrations of local government and to meet managers and local government officers. Today, as we approach the second (and last) year of this project it seems possible to plan another kind of teaching based on using advanced technologies and Distance Education. The CUEEP has already experienced several schemes in that field. An experiment may be carried out geared to the firms by a Distance Educational Package (4) which could be called "How to introduce Quality in a firm?" and would take into account these two years of teaching.

Notes:

1. Later the foundation "France-Pologne" decided to participate in that project.

2. Centre Universiti-Economie d'Education Permanente, further education department of Liddle University of Sciences and Technologies

In brief, the CUEEP is in charge of several missions: further education for adults, research in educational engineering, transfers of knowledge within the context of new technologies in education.

The CUEEP has set up an open learning system based on advanced technologies including teaching at distance. Our laboratory is already working with the Open University on the co-learn Project about the concept of third generation distance learning.

3. For example management, marketing, communication, local development, human resources, environment ...

4. Using paper, tape, videotape for instance

For further information concerning this project, please contact Christian Ladesou, CUEEP, 11 rue Auguste, Angellier 59046 LILLE, CEDEX, France, Telephone: (33) 20 581111, Fax: (33) 20 581110

** DATES FOR THE DIARY **

* CONFERENCES *

** 18-20 November, 1992, Turin, Italy

The Education and Training Potential of Interactive Multimedia putting them into practice, is organised by SATURN in collaboration with the International Training Centre of the International Labour organisation.

Further details from SATURN, Keizersgracht 756, NL - 1017 EZ

Amsterdam, Tel: +31-20-6382441, Fax: +31-20-6382879

** 10-12 May, 1993, Berlin, Germany

Quality and Technology in Distance Education: the East/West dialogue is the second annual EDEN Conference is organised by the UK EDEN Secretariat. Further details from Ms Kerry Mann, Executive Secretary, EDEN, PO Box 92, Milton Keynes, MK7 6DX, United Kingdom Telephone: (44) 908 652468, Fax: (44) 908 654374

** 12-14 May, 1993, Berlin, Germany

How to sell distance education is organised by the Association of European Correspondence Schools (AECS). Further details from Mr Michael Lammersdorf, Axel Andersson Akademie, Neumann-Reichardt Str 27-33, D 2000, Hamburg 70, Telephone: (49) 40 6580933, Fax: (49) 40 6580933

** 20-25 August, 1993, Trondheim, Norway

TeleTeaching 93: Learning and Working independent of time and distance, is organised by the Norwegian Computer Society. The ICDE, EDEN, SATURN and others are co-sponsors of the Conference. Further details from Kersti Larsen, Norwegian Computer Society, PO Box 6714 Rodelokka, N-0503 Oslo, Norway, Telephone: (47) 2 370213, Fax: (47) 2 354669, E-mail: TELETEACH@AVH.UNIT.NO

** 28-30 September, 1993, Cambridge, UK

Quality Assurance in Open and Distance Learning: European and International Perspectives is organised by Open University's Cambridge Regional Centre on behalf of the Academic and Professional Section of EDEN. Further details from Alan Tait or Roger Mills, EDEN A & P Conference, Open University, 12 Hills Road, Cambridge, CB2 1PF, UK, Telephone (44) 223 64721, Fax: (44) 223 355207

** OTHER **

Deadlines for the submission of TEMPUS applications

31 January, 1993 for Joint European Projects
15 December, 1992 and 15 June, 1993 for Individual Grants and Complementary measures

THE EDEN EXECUTIVE

President: Dr Erling Ljosa, Managing Director, NKS Ernst G. Mortensen Foundation.

Vice Presidents: Professor Armando Rocha Trindade, Rector, Universidade Aberta. Professor Tamas Lajos, Technical University of Budapest.

Members: Dr John Daniel, Vice Chancellor, The Open University. Mr Fred Nickolmann, FernUniversitat. Mr Bernard Loing, Recteur d'Academie, Centre National d'Enseignement ` Distance.

Observer: Reidar Roll, Secretary General, ICDE Permanent Secretariat

Secretariat - UK: Ms Kerry Mann, Executive Secretary, EDEN

Secretariat - Hungary: Dr Szucs, TEMPUS Hungarian Office

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