

IKTA5-074/02.

Virtual University for Entrepreneurs

Summary

The theoretical background of an average Hungarian entrepreneur leaves a lot to desire. One of the reasons of this phenomenon is the short prehistory of the entrepreneurial sector since the change of the regime took place only about a decade ago. An other major reason – still valid - of this shortfall can be found in the education and training system. The system of education and vocational training inherited from the previous regime was obviously unable to meet the requirements of the emerging new job market and to introduce the necessary new curricula aiming entrepreneurship. The considerable inertia of the education system prevented it from catching up on this work during the last decade.

Of course, the necessary transformation of the education system has already been started, since more and more institutions recognize the obsolescence of their curriculum system. The present situation can be characterized as follows:

- Some of the higher education state institutions have already appropriate economy oriented trainings, but these are too theoretical and available only for a very limited target group.
- Private training providers appeared on the scene to fill the training gap, but the level of their courses is questionable. These trainings are rather expensive which leads to limited availability.

The project proposal is expected to essentially contribute to the remedy of these problems. The proposed major activities are the following:

- Consortium member No.1 (Budapest Business School) is the protagonist in the field of business oriented trainings in the Hungarian higher education. This institution is in possession of a system of curricula – elaborated mostly in the frame of international co-operation – appropriate for training and retraining of entrepreneurs. Among others this institution delivers a university diploma

„Management of small and medium enterprises” of the most famous French university of Nanterre, Paris X. Having selected 40 modules (about 40 hours each) consortium member No.1 - having good experience in Open Distance Learning and e-learning – will transform this curriculum system into e-learning materials.

- Consortium members No.3 (Aloha 2000, limited liability company) will construct the hardware and develop the software of the virtual university. After having developed the education software in Hungarian they will –together with consortium member No.1– introduce the e-learning curricula in the virtual university.
- Consortium members No. 2 (National Association of Manufacturing Industry and Employers) and No. 3 will organize the preparatory training of the 6000 enterprises – represented by consortium member No.2 – enabling them for the participation in the future e-trainings.
- By the end of the project the consortium will be in the disposal of a virtual university tested by pilot courses, with a highly varyable e-learning curriculum system and with a large target population of entrepreneurs trained to attend the university.
- The end situation will enable consortium member No.1 for introducing the new possibility in its initial education opening in this way the virtual university for the future entrepreneurs.