FOREWORD

Drivers of the European higher education area include mobility, support of knowledge-driven economy, attention for social inclusion and equity, efficient investment in human capital, and last but not least, response to the rapidly changing knowledge society with particular attention to the rising information and communication technologies. With regard to the contribution of non-classical learning and teaching forms to the emerging European higher education area, distance education and e-learning are to be considered an integrated part of the regular activities alongside mainstream higher education.

Generally, e-learning is instruction that is delivered electronically via a Web browser through the Internet or an intranet, or through multimedia platforms such CD or DVD. E-learning as part of a well balanced blend can facilitate self-directed learning, can easily match individual needs and provides sufficient flexibility. Integration of lifelong learning and collaborative networking between institutions, both conventional and distance teaching ones, and even including the corporate world through private-public partnerships can help to build transparent, high quality, efficient, and socially inclusive European higher education area. Although there are some limitations of e-learning (e.g. time-consuming and expensive course development, too static learning programs or lack of human contact), e-learning can provide strong support for building transparent, high-quality and efficient education systems.

As it follows from the above outlined significance of e-learning, the perspectives of its development and the brief explanation of e-learning notion content, the information and communication technologies represent the technological bases of e-learning systems. Journal Acta Electrotechnica et Informatica has been tried to cover the field of information and communication technologies from its foundation. This is the reason why Acta Electrotechnica et Informatica decided to prepare this issue dedicated to e-learning. The issue is composed exclusively of invited papers. The contributing authors belong to reputable experts experienced in the field of research, development, implementation and performance of e-learning systems. The particular papers of the presented issue of Acta Electrotechnica et Informatica are focused especially on the topics like virtual teaching environments, e-learning services via satellite systems, videostreaming, adaptive hypermedia systems, electronic books, remotely accessible laboratory systems, institutional implementation of e-learning systems as well as e-learning quality problems. Several papers included in the issue of Acta Electrotechnica et Informatica are intent on presentation of results of projects concerning e-learning system development and implementation.

We believe that the presented issue of journal Acta Electrotechnica et Informatica dedicated to e-learning will bring you an interesting view into e-learning technologies and its applications.

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