DESCRIPTION

AN INNOVATION PROJECT THAT IDENTIFIES AND ANALYSES THE SIX TECHNOLOGIES, AS WELL AS THE CHALLENGES AND TRENDS FACED, WITH THE GREATEST POTENTIAL IMPACT ON HIGHER EDUCATION OVER ONE, THREE AND FIVE-YEAR HORIZONS. AN ADVISORY BOARD MADE UP OF FORTY-FOUR IBEROAMERICAN TECHNOLOGY AND EDUCATION EXPERTS HAS UNDERTAKEN THIS TASK. THE INITIATIVE IS LED BY THE ELEARN CENTER OF THE UNIVERSITAT OBERTA DE CATALUNYA (UOC) AND THE NEW MEDIA CONSORTIUM.

METHODOLOGY

Adaptation of the Delphi technique consisting in a consultation by phases to the members of the Advisory Board. Three phases can be identified:

A) Collaborative distance work through a wiki (March-April 2010).
B) Meeting of the Advisory Board in Puebla, Mexico (14-16 April).
C) Preparation of the final report and review by the Advisory Board (April-June).

RESULTS

The result of the Advisory Board’s work is the Horizon Report: 2010 Iberoamerican Edition. The six technologies selected in this first edition of the report have been collaborative environments, social media, open content, mobiles, augmented reality and semantic web.

From this point on, the experts task will concentrate in providing a broad dissemination to the document, including the debate on the results and taking an in-depth look at the uses of each of the technologies within the framework of higher education.

LEADING INSTITUTIONS

eLEARN CENTER

The e-learning research, innovation and training center of the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya.

NEW MEDIA CONSORTIUM

An international consortium of educational and cultural institutions devoted to innovative use of ICT and new media. It publishes the Horizon reports throughout the world.

WORK TEAM

The project is coordinated by Iolanda García, Director of Innovation at the eLearn Center. Her task is to promote the development of skills and innovation projects in e-learning at UOC, in collaboration with national and international organisations and companies.

The members of the Advisory Board come from the academic and business fields of thirteen Latin American countries, Spain and Portugal.

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"WE HAVE IDENTIFIED SIX TECHNOLOGIES THAT COULD TRANSFORM HIGHER EDUCATION IN IBEROAMERICA OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS"

Iolanda García, coordinator of the 2010 Iberoamerican Horizon Report

The six technologies selected by the Advisory Board and included in the 2010 Iberoamerican Horizon Report are divided into three adoption horizons. In one year or less, collaborative environments and social media; in 2 to 3 years, open content and mobiles; and in 4 to 5 years, augmented reality and the semantic web.

The trend towards the decentralization of knowledge has been highlighted, while teacher training as well as digital literacy have been identified as the main challenges to be faced.

As far as education professionals are concerned, the interest of this report lies in the identification of the existing uses of technology and the promotion of innovative practices. The document is also useful for sectors related to education, such as technological innovation or the cultural world.

"NO DOUBT, THE MOST POWERFUL ASPECT WAS THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SPACE FOR CONVERSATION (DIGITAL AND IN PERSON) BETWEEN KEY PLAYERS FROM A LARGE NUMBER OF COUNTRIES."

Cristóbal Cobo, Professor at Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO) in Mexico

The Advisory Board has made special mention of the wiki platform as an essential tool for guiding the discussion towards the project goals. The debate has been particularly enlightening because, beyond any technological discussion, the methodological approaches of the different social contexts have been taken into account. Furthermore, as the project is intended to continue annually, it also periodically provides a space for reflection and debate on the possibilities offered by emerging technologies in higher education.

"IN ADDITION TO THE VALUE OF THE RESPONSES WHICH MAY COME TO LIGHT THROUGH THIS REPORT, I AM CONVINCED THAT MANY MORE ISSUES WILL BE RAISED, OPENING UP NEW IDEAS AND OPINIONS."

Cristóbal Suárez, Pedagogical Innovation at CLAY Formación Internacional

The work carried out on the project by the more than 40 members of the Advisory Board in fact entails the creation of a network of experts in Iberoamerica. The eLearn Center aims to contribute to the promotion of this network, in order to turn it into a space for collaboration on the creation and dissemination of knowledge about the use of emerging technologies in higher education.