

THE LETTER OF INTENT

This document represents a Letter of Intent to participate in the FP6 proposal – ‘MENTAL CHANGE’ – by an Slovenian consortium represented by ‘Jozef Stefan’ Institute.

The general objective of our contribution to **MENTAL CHANGE** is to change the way of thinking of the important levels in medium and small size enterprises, governmental authorities and other beneficiary bodies. This will be achieved by improvement of knowledge and skills of employees and unemployed people by preparing them to understand e-business, the new ways of working and thinking, or in other words to make them capable of understanding how the knowledge economy infrastructure works and how it can be used in the everyday working environment. This will be provided through special designed training and special designed ICT tools. This goal will be achieved by several activities.

The portfolio of activities will be based on the analysis and the selection of the critical mass of the selected SMEs and other relevant groups. Crucial activity will be based on usage of friendly technology for e-learning known as EducaNext portal (<http://www.educanext.com>) .

In order to achieve this high level technology proved through long term usage and quality assurance methods as an excellent practical tool for e-learning, distance education and training an e-business environment. The portal usage enables search and delivery of learning resources that have one of the following forms:

- Educational Materials: electronic textbooks, recorded lectures, presentations, lecture notes, case studies, quizzes, etc.
- Educational Activities: distributed courses, lectures, tutoring sessions, etc.
- Community-Centred Knowledge Resources: collaborative content production projects, fora, integrated informal knowledge community-centred knowledge resources: collaborative content production projects, fora, integrated informal knowledge etc.

EducaNext portal resides in a distributed multi-lingual, web based, learning content management system called the Universal Brokerage Platform (UBP). The UBP was developed and is currently maintained by the UNIVERSAL consortium. Built from open source components, the UBP was designed to support communities in their exchange of knowledge and learning resources, securely over the Internet. The UBP has been adopted by several national ministries of education in EU and the European academic association - EducaNext. The Austrian Ministry of education and the Community of European Management Schools (CEMS) are currently using this technology to build and distribute knowledge for their faculties. The catalogue of the learning resources range over 7 00 items.

Special design features allow EducaNext content providers to customise their offers. They can specify the community to which they wish to make their content available and the type of exchange relationship they wish to establish with the consumers. In July 2003 EducaNext listed 900 users and 350 learning resources. EducaNext portal is easily accessible through Web browsers.

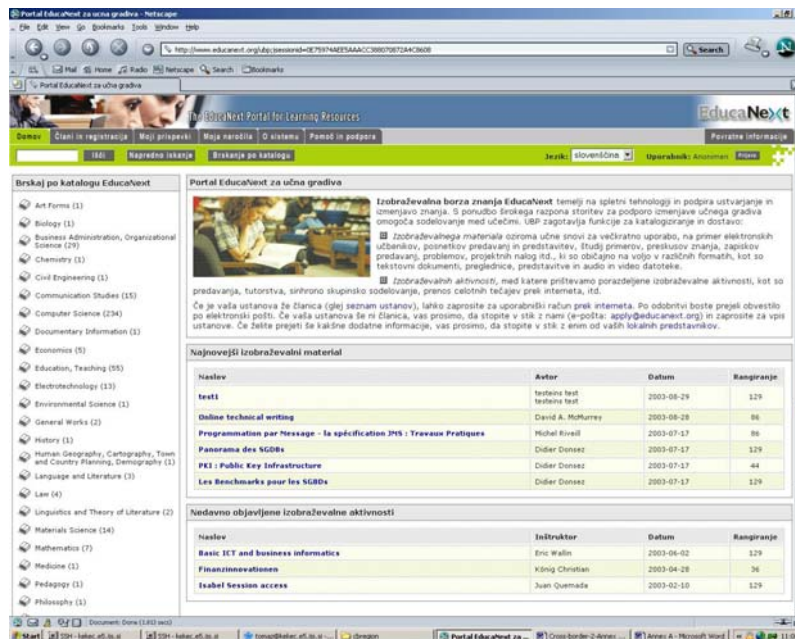


Figure 1: The EducaNext portal (in Slovene)

EducaNext portal provides training that build skills for use of e-services and for change of the thinking. The portal makes possible the training to be implemented by use of learning resources specially customised to the targeted groups. The members of the target group will use in the process of acquiring e-learning resource the “EDUCATIONAL E-SHOP” implemented at the EducaNext portal as the portal offers educational services with typical e-selling and e-buying procedures: authorization, identification of the customers in the “payment service”.

It enables encouragement of SMEs and others to “GoDigital” and to understand the digital world through co-ordinated network activities for the exchange of knowledge on best-practice in e-business and preparing them through activities by organizing networked footing for partnership.

Partners in Slovenia have prepared consortium represented by ‘Jozef Stefan’ Institute. The partners of the consortium are:

- Institute ‘Jozef Stefan’ – governmental owned R&D institute
- SETCCE - Security Technology Competence Centre
- IRC – Innovation Relay Centre of Slovenia
- Center for scientific visualization

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