

MEETING

**of the IITE Focal Points in the CIS and Baltic Countries
on the UNESCO cross-cutting theme project**

*Higher Education Open and Distance Learning
Knowledge Base for Decision-Makers*

and WORKSHOP

October 10–12, 2002
Kiev, the Ukraine



In accordance with the sharing of the responsibilities within the framework of the UNESCO cross-cutting theme project *Higher Education Open and Distance Learning Knowledge Base for Decision-Makers* (ODLKB) the UNESCO Institute



for Information Technologies in Education is in charge for the project fulfillment in the CIS and Baltic countries. At the preliminary stage IITE had carried out the needs analysis, in collaboration with the IITE's focal points from Kazakhstan,



Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation and Ukraine, the results of which became the basis of the project development.

In compliance with the work plan on the project the Institute conducted the



meeting and the workshop hosted by its focal point in the Ukraine — Institute for Applied System Analysis — on 10–2 October 2002. These events were held in Kiev following the invitation by the Ukrainian National Commission for UNESCO. The co-organizers were the Ministry of Education and Science of the Ukraine,



UNESCO Chair in Higher Technical Education, Applied System Analysis and Informatics as well as the National Technical University of the Ukraine «KPI».



The representatives from the IITE's focal points from the CIS and Baltic countries, namely Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Ukraine as



well as Mr. D. Storti, Representative of the UNESCO Headquarters (CI/ISD), Mr. V. Chernomirdin, Special and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Russia in the Ukraine, former Prime-Minister of the Russian Federation, Mr. V. Slesarenko, Representative of the Culture and Clergy Committee of the Ukraine, Parliament Representatives of the Ukrainian National Commission for UNESCO, Ministry of Education and Science, National Academy of Science, Higher Educational Institutes of the Ukraine – the specialists in the field of distance education took part in the meeting and workshop. Overall, more than 40 persons were engaged in this work.



Mr. D. Storti presented the situation over the project development, Mr. V. Meskov (IITE) examined the CIS and Baltic countries' participation in the project.

During the meeting three keynote speeches were made:

- *Development of the Information Science and Educational Portal* — by Prof. M. Zgurovsky (Ukraine),
- *ODLKB: Design, Structure and Content* — by Associate Prof. V. Verzhbitsky (Russian Federation),
- *Development of Distance Education in Central Asia Region* — by Dr V. Grebnev (Kyrgyzstan).

Besides, the participants were presented with the IITE research *Distance Learning in the CIS and Baltic Countries: Monitoring of Educational Needs and Opportunities* — by Dr J. Vlasova.

During the meeting the presentations concerning the state-of-the-art and perspectives of Distance Education development in Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Belarus, Lithuania, Moldova, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan were made by the participants.

In order to share the best practices relating to ODLKB the workshop for the participants and the observers was organized during which OSVITA —

Information and Producing System of the Ministry of Education and Sciences of the Ukraine was presented.

In conclusion the participants agreed on the **Final document** below.

We, the participants of the meeting and workshop, are the representatives of the IITE focal points from the CIS and Baltic countries: Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Ukraine,



- Recognizing an outstanding role of higher education for the progress of society and the necessity in improvement of qualification and re-training of a large number of specialists;
- Taking into consideration the state of scientific, educational and cultural communications among the CIS and Baltic countries;
- Realizing a high level of educational needs of the CIS and Baltic countries' population;

have agreed as follows:

The most important components of providing collaboration between the CIS and Baltic countries in the field of Distance Learning are:

- Development and implementation of the policy and strategy in creating and applying of information technologies, learning systems and complexes specialized in the information resources in education;
- Collection, analysis, synthesizing, spreading and exchange of information about the state, requirements and perspectives of the information technologies usage in the field of open and distance education in the CIS and Baltic countries;

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- Consulting services, technical and financial assistance in the development of learning systems and complexes, training programmes and courses, textbooks and manuals, creating of educational information resources;
 - Assistance to the development and using of up-to-date information technologies, computer systems and telecommunication networks for distance and other forms of education;



- Conducting research on information technologies in education and other directions within the framework of the UNESCO programmes in the field of education, information and communication as well as UNESCO IITE programmes;
- Acknowledgement of a main role of information and analytical provision in the field of open and distance learning for the CIS and Baltic countries;
- Assistance to the creation of complex state programmes on the development of scientific and educational communications in the CIS and Baltic countries;
- Importance of the integration of scientific, educational and information segments of the CIS and Baltic countries into the European and international information environment.

The international meeting and workshop *Higher Education Open and Distance Learning Knowledge Base for Decision-Makers* recommends:

- To learn the proposed variants of architecture of the base of knowledge, to give the recommendations on choosing one of two priority variants: a common ODLKB or a portal ODLKB;
- To identify Russian as a common working language of the Project in the region and to anticipate the possibility of the localization it into English and national languages while the development;
- To foresee the possibility of attracting business partners while the realization of the Project;
- To be guided by the following list of main sections in order of their priority while developing the structure and filling in the base of knowledge of the Project:
 - normative and lawful ODE base, illustrating the issues of quality, accreditation, and acknowledgement of qualification,
 - information and analytical ODE provision,
 - organization and management of ODE systems,
 - scientific and methodical ODE provision,
 - educational information ODE resources,
 - material and technical ODE provision,
 - personnel ODE provision;
- To create a working group for the development of a project documentation of *Higher Education Open and Distance Learning Knowledge Base for Decision-Makers* for the CIS and Baltic countries;
- To coordinate the development of the Project in the region with the partners from other regions involved in the UNESCO CCT project (Africa, Asia and the Pacific);
- To address to UNESCO IITE the request to organize, using the unified principles, a special regional research concerning the Project problems aiming at filling in the base of knowledge;
- To approve the IITE activities in monitoring of educational needs and possibilities in the field of DE and to recommend this undertaking for spreading in the CIS and Baltic countries.