OCCPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES OF DISTANCE EDUCATION

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ECA Region
Kaunas University of Technology, Lithuania
Republic of Lithuania

Population: 3.5 mln.

Ethnic groups: Lithuanian 83.4%, Polish 6.7%, Russian 6.3%, other or unspecified 3.6%

Religions: Roman Catholic 79%, Russian Orthodox 4.1%, Protestant (including Lutheran and Evangelical Christian Baptist) 1.9%, other or unspecified 5.5%, none 9.5%

Government type: parliamentary democracy
Lithuania and the European policy in e-Learning

- Lithuanian Government programme 2001-2004
- National Programme of the Distance Education (DE)
- Strategic Guidelines for Education Development for the period of 2003-2012
- Strategy for ICT implementation in the Lithuanian Education

The documents were prepared in accordance with the Lisbon Council conclusions, the Employment strategy and the Memorandum on Lifelong Learning.
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National Strategy for Distance Education:

- Development of **DE infrastructure** while emphasizing regional aspects, evaluating human resources and accumulated experience
- Development of a **legal basis** for DE
- Creation of **quality assurance** systems
- Activities of DE centres seeking self-sustainability
- Development of DE technologies
- Strengthening administrative skills
- Creation of a student consultation and methodological support system
- Broadening the possibilities of applying libraries
- **Cooperation possibilities with national and international institutions**
- Initiatives and means to attract required funds for Strategy implementation
- Monitoring of Strategy implementation
LITHUANIAN VIRTUAL UNIVERSITY

• The program of Lithuanian Virtual University (LVU) for the year 2007-2012 is the continuation of the investment program of 2001-2006 “Information technologies for science and studies“ (ITMiS 2001-2006). It was oriented to higher education.

• Lithuanian Virtual University (LVU) starting from 2007 will address needs of all educational sectors (Universities, Colleges, Vocational and Teachers education centers, Secondary schools, etc.)
The goal of program “Lithuanian Virtual University (LVU) for the year 2007-2012” is to create the conditions and support for the program participants to implement and develop their activities virtually, acting on the basis of networking model, using the accumulated experience and already developed infrastructure of information technologies, as well as to delivery higher education and other services to Lithuanian citizens and to compete in the international market. One of the tasks of this program is to encourage virtual e-learning processes“. 
Lithuanian distance education network (LieDM)

Development phases:

- 1998-1999
- 1999-2000
- 2000-2005
- 2005-2007

- Video conference studio
- Video conference mini studio
- Regional distance education center
- Distance education classroom
- Distance education internet access classroom
- PHARE 2000 project members

WWW.LieDM.LT
Lithuanian distance education network

The main objectives:

- Co-operation among higher education institutions in distance education development
- Development of distance education infrastructure based on modern telecommunication, information and video conference technologies
- Maintenance of virtual universities and enhancement of e-learning
- **Growth of Lithuanian distance education system as a partner of World Bank Global Development Learning Network**
Rural internet AP
Regional Project Highlight

World Bank GDLN Series on Migration and Remittances in Europe and Central Asia
Migration and Development: Europe and Central Asia (ECA)

Migration has become an important phenomenon in many countries. Its importance has become more pronounced in the last decade with its significant contribution to foreign exchange earnings, economic growth and poverty reduction. This pattern is very distinct in many ECA countries, with a special attention to CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States). Increasingly, a large share of the labor force in many CIS countries is residing abroad; this could be as little as 5 percent or as large as one-third. More >

For more information, please contact: Mr. Sudharsan Canagarajah and Mr. Matin Kholmatov
Migration and Remittances

Global Development Learning Network Series: Migration and Remittances

A number of countries in the ECA region have experienced increasing inflows from migrant worker remittances over the past several years and it has been observed that the economic growth and poverty reduction achievements in most countries have been intertwined with these trends.

As a result of the economic slowdown from the current global financial crisis, plus the anticipated decline of growth in the two main host countries for labor migrants, Russia and Kazakhstan, governments are seeking ways to cushion economies from potential future impacts. Among the issues that could negatively affect the current account position is a large-scale return of migrants and a decrease in remittance flows.

These issues have also compounded the difficulties faced by migrant workers through governments’ ability to support them. During the best of times, the management of migration and remittance flows, for the benefit of migrants and their families, has been complicated by issues concerning health, education, local labor laws and social protection. These are now compounded by job losses in countries hosting migrant workers. This GDLN series will provide a forum for cross-country discussion on the challenges facing policy makers in these difficult times from the lessons learned in many countries. Understanding international agreements on migration, examining the signals that predict trends plus innovative approaches to migration management are among the topics that will be featured.
Migration and Remittances: Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union

Two migration systems have emerged in the Europe and Central Asia region since transition: 1) Flows from the CIS to Russia.
Migration and Remittances:
Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union

2) Flows from Central and Eastern Europe to Western Europe
Challenges

Key challenges for the CIS countries in effectively managing their labor migration polices and reforms could be grouped into three broad categories:

- creation of a unified migration space and labor market
- protection of migrants’ rights
- development of an efficient migrant support system.
Strategy

Migration of people across international borders affects economic growth and social welfare in both sending and receiving countries. More than 200 million people now live outside their country of birth.
Projects & Programs

The Europe and Central Asia Region of the World Bank has been active in providing a range of live and virtual interactive programs to support the improvement of the environment of migrant workers within the CIS states.

A series of video conference based dialogues between six CIS countries provided for dialogue with experts on best practices worldwide.

The series led to a study tour in the Philippines and a subsequent workshop for representatives from each of participating country in Moscow, and a new video conferencing series has recently been launched.

The series will also be focused on helping to establishment of the MiRPAL (Migration and Remittances Peer-Assisted Learning) network, a community of practitioners in this area located throughout the region.

The World Bank is working towards better understanding of the linkages between migration and development and is applying this knowledge in its operations and day-to-day policy dialogue. Therefore, the objective is to complement ongoing efforts of the Bank in contributing to Bank’s AAA such as Poverty Assessments, CEM and Economic Reports. Migration team has provided substantial inputs to Moldova Poverty Assessment, Russian Trust Fund on Migration for Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan, Tajikistan CEM (migration policy note), and Russia economic reports that try to bring the importance of migration and link demographic challenges in Russia with migration.
Previous Sessions

Session 1: Migration and Remittances in Europe and Central Asia (Feb. 5, 2009)

Session 2: Migration and Remittance Management in Crisis Times (March 5, 2009)

Session 3: Migration and Remittance Management in Crisis Times: Session 3 (April 2, 2009)

Session 4: Migration and Remittance Management in Crisis Times: Session 4 (May 27, 2009)

Session 5: South South Experience Exchange Between Practitioners (SSETP) Study Tour to Philippines (June 27-July 1, 2009)

Session 6: International Workshop on Migration and Remittances in the CIS Countries, Moscow, Russia (July 2-3, 2009)

Session 7: Migration and Remittances in Europe and Central Asia: From Plans to Actions (Oct. 8, 2009)

Session 8: Migration and Remittances in Europe and Central Asia: Moving from plan to action. A reformer's view from the public sector (Oct 28, 2009)

Session 9: Migration and Remittances in Europe and Central Asia: Institutional reforms that are needed and easy but high payoff to support migrants (Nov 12, 2009)

Session 10: Migrants and Support Services: Lessons from three decades of work in the field (Dec 15, 2009)

Session 11: Migration and Remittances Peer Assisted Learning Network (MiRPAL) in Europe and Central Asia (Feb 26, 2010)

Session 12: Migration and Remittances Peer Assisted Learning Network (MiRPAL) in Europe and Central Asia (March 26, 2010)
“At the core of the migration challenges for the future in the region are the creation of coherent and market-friendly policies regulating migration flows, labor market exchanges, improvement of financial services and literacy, support to Diaspora networks and coherence between countries by initiating bilateral and multilateral agreements and increasing their effectiveness,” emphasized Luca Barbone, Sector Director of Poverty Reduction and Econ Management in Europe and Central Asia Region of the World Bank. “Most important of all, the countries in the Region should strive to develop an environment in which the basic human and economic rights of migrants are recognized and protected.”
Who requested what from GDLN?

• The Government of Tajikistan requested the World Bank’s help in supporting its migrant workers abroad.

• Bank staff wanted to develop a forum for dialogue among the key players in CIS.

• GDLN team was asked to develop a knowledge-sharing program across 8 CIS countries to develop a network of advocates for migrant causes.
How did GDLN help?

- Blended learning approach applied:
  - F2F conferences and study tour
  - broadcast-quality advocacy documentary
  - video conferences managed by GDLN affiliate
  - pre-VC offline seminars sessions
  - webcasts and Adobe Connect chat,
  - collaborative online document preparation
  - discussion space

- Focused on cross-country south-south dialogue between migrant “sending” and “receiving” countries

- Created environment for development of a formalized Community of Practice
What results did the project achieve?

• Better awareness of worldwide labor migration policies and approaches

• Multi-country joint protocol and action plan for migrant support

• Cross-country community of practitioners (MIRPAL) formed as a platform for regional dialogue (http://www.mirpal.org).

• Knowledge database: http://go.worldbank.org/4P1UFBZOD0
Lessons Learned

• Always develop means to ensure participant demand for session topics

• Cross border dialogue is a superior learning tool to “talking heads” and traditional Q&A

• Always integrate videoconferencing with other forms of online and offline communication

• Social media, online collaboration tools should be utilized for community building among the participants.
Thank You for Your attention

Questions?