

Global Co-Operation in the New Millennium
The 9th European Conference on Information Systems
Bled, Slovenia, June 27-29, 2001

**WEB-BASED EDUCATION (WBE) AND DIFFUSSION
(Panel)**

Moderator:

A. K. Aggarwal

Lockheed Martin Research Professor, University of Baltimore, 1420 N. Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21201 USA
Tel.: 410 837 5275, Fax: 410 837 5722
aagarwal@ubmail.ubalt.edu

Panelists:

Ron Legon

Provost, University of Baltimore, 1420 N. Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21201 USA
Tel.: 410 837 5244, Fax: 410 837 5249
rlegon@ubmail.ubalt.edu

A. Milton Jenkins

Professor & B&E Chair, University of Baltimore, Baltimore, MD 21201, USA
Tel.: 410 837 5375, Fax: 410 837 6565
mjenkins@ubmail.ubalt.edu

Dubravka Čečez-Kecmanović

Professor, Faculty of Management, University of Western Sydney, Locked Bag #1797, Penrith South DC, NSW 1797, Australia
Tel.: 612 9852 4157, Fax: 612 9852 4185
dubravka@uws.edu.au

S. Valenti

Professor, Computer Science Dept., Via Breccie Bianche, University of Ancona, 60131 Ancona – Italy
Tel.: 39 071 2204824, Fax: 39 071 2204474
valenti@inform.unian.it

Reima Suomi

Professor, Information Systems Science,
Turku School of Economics and Business Administration, Pl. 110, FIN-20520 Turku, Finland
Tel.: 358 2 338 3409, Fax: 358 2 338 3451
Reima.Suomi@tukkk.fi

Internet revolution is creating unprecedented demand for technically qualified people. Many traditional and non-traditional students across the globe are joining this bandwagon. This is also changing education. Non-traditional students want education which is “customized”, “accessible”, “convenient” and “practical” and above all time and place independent. Advances in technology have created many solutions for “time” and “place” and even, “language” and “technology” independent web-based education (WBE). It is becoming easier to develop a course with the web as a “part” of or as a completely different web-based course. Web-based education (WBE) is diffusing in many traditional disciplines of business education, including finance, accounting, management and marketing. WBE is emerging in the US and the western countries. However, the extent of its diffusion is not clear. Is it limited to certain universities or certain geographical areas? In addition, educators face with operational and Symantec questions like, Is it sufficient to mimic face-to-face education to WBE or do we need a completely different philosophy?. Researchers are struggling with these issues. This panel will address some of the issues raised above and describe their own experiences with web-based teaching. Dr. Legon will address WBE diffusion at the University of Baltimore and his experiences as a web-based educator. Dr. Suomi will discuss his experiences from Finland. In particular he will review the official initiatives in Finland to develop web-based education and teleworking, and will discuss difficulties encountered in this work. Dr. Valenti will discuss his experiences in developing MODASPECTRA, a joint project of Italy, Ireland, France and the Netherlands. The project's goals include defining an open and distance learning system usable by students, according to suitable tutoring pathways and schedules. This system will be assisted by online evaluation during the learning process and suitable open and distance learning packages will be developed accordingly. Dr. Cecez-Kecmanovic will discuss WBE diffusion in Australia. Dr. Jenkins will summarize where we are in WBE and what we should be doing to take WBE to the next millennium.