

## Praxis of Building and Using a Virtual Learning Environment

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### Abstract

Our faculty continuously works on implementing new methods of teaching to our learning programs. In the framework of the project "Design and application of the e-learning courses" we have developed e-learning logistic and content for the doctoral students. In the preliminary phase, we tested the possibilities of the virtual class as a tool for efficient online transmission of the content. We have tested Elluminate, Wiziq, Wimba classroom and Scipio. We tried to find answers to questions regarding technology parameters, quality of Internet connections but also the experience of teachers and students while using it. Our experience shows that progress is remarkably fast and technology is much more reliable as before. The continuous problems are on the user side. Content and context are still crucial. This is the main reason why e-learning is considered a long-distance race.

From May, 1st 2010 a team at the Faculty of Mass-Media Communication has started to work on a new curriculum - Media Relations in English language. The output of the project will be the foundation of a new accreditation based on a standardized curriculum with a well defined subject matter and teaching pedagogy. The launch of the new programme could happen in the academic year 2012/2013 after approval of the accreditation. The project is funded by the European Union.

The aim of the project is implementation new form of education into the study process. It means to design, and put into function an e-learning system of education for doctoral study in the field of Mass-media Studies and. study programs Mass-media Communication and Marketing Communication. The study will start at the beginning of the year 2013, after finishing the preparation phase of the project. Finally, we will create a modular base for the next development of e-learning study for the faculty. In the first stage of this project, besides building the structure and content of the courses, we will complete preliminary comparative analyses of the Learning Management Systems (hereinafter LMS), e-learning authoring tools, and also test e-learning applications and virtual classrooms in a "live" teaching environment.

The project is also funded by the European Union. This article will proceed to share our experiences and practices realized from the first phase of the project.

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**Keywords:** e-learning, e-course, virtual class, Wiziq, Wimba classroom, Elluminate, Blackboard, managing of e-learning projects, Learning Management Systems, e-learning authoring tools.

## Biographies



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