

**EU-AFRICAN R&D PROPOSAL IDEA****Personal Details**

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**Proposal****Title**

E-learning development project higher education establishment  
collaboration/networking in Latvia and Lithuania.

*The title of your Proposal: please provide a maximum of 15 words that accurately reflect what your proposal is about.*

**Proposal idea (max 500 words):**

The Riga Technical University Distance Education Study Centre just finished Phare 2002 programme project "Availability Increase of Innovative E-learning for Promotion of Knowledge Based Economy in Latvia". My position in the project was Coordinator.

The aim of the project was the promotion of economic development by means of essential improving the quality of continuing education in a group of Latvian Higher Education Institutions (HEI).

The project aimed to overcome the consequences of relative isolation of Latvian higher education institutions in the frame of national economy, such as not sufficient contribution to labour market needs. The project was developed with intention to set and test the priorities

and principles for effective application of opportunities of knowledge society technologies like e-learning and knowledge management.

Overall objective of this project was to work out a joint strategy for next generation e-learning development to provide high quality and effective collaboration in technology enhanced learning area among group of Higher Educational Institutions in Latvia.

The project objectives were following:

Objective 1

To promote local labour and business needs by strengthening networking on e-learning solutions for life long learning.

Objective 2

To develop knowledge and course sharing approach among Higher Educational Institutions using EKD (Enterprise Knowledge Development) meta-modelling.

Objective 3

To develop the principles and methods of evaluation for the shared courses. To develop best praxes solutions on copyright issues of e-learning.

Objective 4

To develop a joint project(s) for course development with application of advanced multimedia and e-learning technologies.

Objective 5

To develop the principles of joint course delivery to secure the needs of labour market.

The most visible result of the project was the creation of new network of higher education institutions with enthusiastic knowledge sharing and e-learning development culture. The Consortium prepared more than 30 new e-learning and life long learning development project proposals during one year.

I think that we could successfully apply this approach also in Africa.

### **Short Description of Institution**

*A short description of the institution (between 200 and 300 words) to include the most recent relevant experience related to the proposal idea.*

**Riga Technical University** (RTU) is an established and highly rated institution of higher technical education in Eastern Europe. Founded in 1862, modelled on similar technical institutions in Switzerland and Germany, RTU serves the needs of rapidly growing industry of the Baltic region. RTU has been an international institution from its inception; distinguished scientists from Germany, Poland, Sweden and Russia have studied and worked here. RTU is a state-sponsored university. Research is mainly financed by research grants allocated by the Latvian Council of Science and the Latvian Ministry of Education and Science as well as R&D projects financed by EU programmes and business.

After Latvia regained its independence in 1991, RTU renovated its educational with the clear goal to meet education and research standards set by the European Union. The university actively participates in many European programmes of education and science. The university has a rapidly growing student population not only from Latvia, but also from abroad. In the 2002-03 academic year, there were approximately 10,000 students at RTU and a staff of 1705; comprising 417 full-time academic staff (63 professors), 182 part-time academic staff and 67 part-time visiting academics.

RTU is the most active organisation in Latvia in terms of participation in 6<sup>th</sup> Framework projects. The number of applied projects is comparable with Helsinki and Lund universities. Success rate however has been 3 times lower.

**Riga Technical University Distance Education Study Centre (DESC)** was founded within the framework of the PHARE "Multi-country Co-operation in Distance Education" project. The Centre is a structural unit of RTU and was formed in May 1997. The objective of the Centre is to develop distance education in Latvia using innovative applications of IT / multimedia technologies – online, and offline. The Centre's mandate is to organise the development and adoption of distance learning courses as well as the delivery of courses, involving academic staff from RTU and other Latvian higher education establishments. RTU DESC staff has already participated in more than 20 e-learning / distance education development projects, funded under the PHARE, Socrates, Leonardo EU 5<sup>th</sup> FP (*EIM-CEE, HyperKnowledge, HERN*), and 6<sup>th</sup> FP (*NoE Kaleidoscope, Enhanced Learning Unlimited ELU*). RTU DESC is participating in regional development projects that included human resource development and skills training, knowledge management solutions.