

FACILE

FACILE = FACILitated open distance learning Environment (ODL) for continuing engineering education (CEE).

FACILE runs under the European SOCRATES program (Grant-No 56534-CP-1-98-1AT-ODL-ODL) and it is co-ordinated by the Technical University of Vienna.

The FACILE project adds a dimension of facilitated open distance learning to an existing network of centres for continuing engineering education. Facilitated open distance learning combines flexibility with effective support of learning processes through local support centres. The FACILE project enhances the knowledge and skills of professionals in European centres for continuing engineering education on how to apply facilitated open distance learning in their daily work. The project makes existing expertise widely available. It develops transferable products based on the application of widely available technology.

The project develops and (by applying facilitated open distance learning) deliver a distance learning course on facilitated open distance learning (based on the application of widely available technology); it implements an international network for the support of distance learners by facilitation – this network will form the nucleus of a virtual environment for joint open distance learning provisions; and the project provides the staff of centres for continuing engineering education with the opportunity to practice facilitated open distance learning in jointly provided pilot courses.

Total project duration is 2 years. During the first project year, material on facilitated open distance learning has been adapted and tested, staff from centres for continuing engineering education has been trained, and pilots for applying facilitated open distance learning by centres for continuing engineering education has been prepared; experiences will be documented and intermediate project results will be disseminated. During second project year, pilots will be delivered and evaluated, the support network will be delivered and evaluated, the support network will be validated, material on facilitated open distance learning will be re-adapted according to the evaluation, and results will be documented; project results will be disseminated on a wider basis and transfer to other educational sectors will multiply the project's outcomes.

Contact Person

Dr. Franz Reichl
Acting Director
University Extension Centre
Vienna University of Technology
Gusshausstrasse 28
A-1040 Wien, Austria
Fax: +43 1 5054961
Franz.Reichl@tuwien.ac.at
<http://www.tuwien.ac.at/ai/welcome1.htm>