

## Olympia project. “E-learning environment in sports training”

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### **Introduction**

The main objective of Olympia Project is to design and implement tools and methodologies (telematic support through the internet and real-time learning by satellite) for continuous distance learning in the management of sports facilities and the organization of sporting events. It will be developed from December 2001 to November 2004.

### **Project**

The project consists of five phases:

1. Prior analysis for the identification of similar or complementary products.
2. Establishment and development of methodologies and contents of the training modules
3. Implementation of a pilot test for the validation of the tools and methodologies designed
4. Dissemination of results to guarantee a mainstreaming effect
5. Final evaluation.

### **Actual results**

Stages and present state of the Olympia Project

*Stage 1: Prior analysis for the identification of similar or complementary products (finished)*

#### Objectives:

- Identifying similar or complementary products to the materials that the Olympia project should develop.
- Defining target groups in each country and the training needs of sports managers and sports organisations via Internet.

*Stage 2: Establishment and development of methodologies and contents of the training modules (in process)*

#### Objectives:

- To identify the technological platforms that will be used in the future distance training.
- To analyse current technological alternatives for the development of the products.
- To evaluate already existing materials and convert them into digital format.
- To develop new materials where insufficient coverage is detected.
- To develop training instruments and tools ready for use.
- To adapt the materials to the languages and cultures of the partners.

*Stage 3: Implementation of a pilot test for the validation of the tools and methodologies designed (ready to be done)*

#### Objectives:

- To validate the training packs produced in the previous phases by means of delivering the distance training pilot courses with Internet-based tutoring to professionals in the sports sector in those territories participating in the project.
- To develop a final version of the training packs to be commercially used throughout Europe.

The pilot test will be organized through a platform where each one of the participants will have a differentiated access according to its role in the test.

The contents implemented in the pilot test will be the following:

- Basic course:
  - Special Events

- Sport Events Management Course:
  - Image.
  - Sponsorship
  - Volunteers
  
- Sport Facilities Management Course
  - Planning of sport facilities
  - Sport system analysis
  - Total quality management

The pilot test will be based in the first level of each one of the contents.

### **Expected Results**

The expected outcomes are the following:

- a) Study to identify others similar and/or complementary products in Europe
- b) Distance training modules on sports facilities management and sporting events organization
- c) Interactive distance training method based on a computer tutorial system and real-time training via satellite. The training method will be based on two essential elements:
  - Web site that will integrate the formative contents and a virtual space of connection and exchange of experiences among sport management professionals
  - Real-time training via satellite, consisting on transmitting interactive training sessions in real time and using audio and videotape resources allowing the trainee to take part in a virtual classroom.
- d) Publication of the results of the experimental courses, to observe the contents and methodology, with graphic and electronic format.
- e) Creation of a European network of sport management professionals.

### **Discussion**

OLYMPIA is primarily aimed at training trainers in sports management:

The short-term impact of the project will be:

- Improving training in specific areas of management which are currently inadequately covered.
- Contributing to the development of ICT methodologies among these professionals and setting up European co-operation networks on sports management matters.

The medium-term objective is for training establishments (universities, on-going training centres, etc) to incorporate the resulting work methodology into their standard training systems.

The long-term objective is that the project's impact will contribute towards professionalising and, therefore, increasing employment in the sports sector.

The presentation will focus on the most up-dated results of the stage 3, which will be undertaken during June-September.

### **References**

This project is carried out by: Barcelona Provincial Council (leader of the project), Olympic Studies Centre, Province of Turin, Polytechnic of Turin, Greek Secretariat for Sports, Democritus University of Thrace, Allweb Solutions, Unitman Sports Consulting and the Romanian University Association for integration in European structures .

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