



Reviewing (traces of) European Virtual Campuses

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Title of paper: Redefining and Reviewing Virtual Campuses

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Strand: From Virtual Mobility towards Virtual Erasmus

Abstract

Throughout the last decade, numerous initiatives have been set up to experiment with the establishment of Virtual Campuses and Virtual Mobility activities. Virtual Campuses have appeared in various forms and structures and to varying degrees of success.

Through the experience of past and present projects that have been exploring and refining the concepts of Virtual Campus and Virtual Mobility a gradual shift of concepts is noticed: from the "well-defined" clear, 100% online Virtual Campus to Virtual Mobility, whereby the more traditional universities open their borders, collaborate supra/intra institutionally and often (inter)nationally, and/or involve non-traditional students through e-learning. Actually, there is no strict definition of Virtual Campus or Virtual Mobility anymore. Every campus becomes a Virtual Campus, and every mobility has some form of Virtual Mobility included. "Blended models" gain more and more interest and attention.

All in all, there seems to be a common feeling that a redefinition of the "Virtual Campus" concept is necessary, in order for it to be applicable to the educational needs of today. The Re.ViCa project exactly has been set-up with this aim. The project furthermore makes an inventory and systematically reviews cross-institutional Virtual Campuses of the past decade, looking not only at currently operational Virtual Campuses, but also at the legacy and impact of those initiatives that have closed down or become dormant

The following paper presents the current project results and highlights guidelines and action points that can be applied to ensure the realisation of new successful Virtual Campus initiatives.