

# **EuroPACE Virtual University Experience**

*Annemie Boonen*

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# EuroPACE ivzw is

a European non-profit association of universities,  
educational organisations and their networks.





- Groep T Leuven Institute of Technology (Belgium)
- Karel de Grote Hogeschool (Belgium)
- Katholieke Hogeschool Kempen (Belgium)
- Katholieke Hogeschool Leuven (Belgium)
- Katholieke Hogeschool Sint-Lieven (Belgium)
- Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (Belgium)
- Universiteit Gent (Belgium)
- Universitaire Instelling Antwerpen (Belgium)
- University of Brussels (VUB) (Belgium)
- Helsinki University of Technology (Finland)
- University of Hagen – FernUniversität (Germany)
- University of West-Hungary (Hungary)
- Consorzio NET.T.UN.O (Italy)
- University of Bologna (Italy)
- Warsaw University of Technology (Poland)
- West Pomeranian Business School (Poland)
- Technical University of Kosice (Slovakia)
- Slovenian Institute for Adult Education (Slovenia)
- Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (Spain)

# OUR INTERESTS

**Innovation in education**

**New educational technologies**

**Virtual mobility**

**Quality in eLearning**

**eLearning competences and skills**

# OUR ACTIVITIES

**R&D Projects**

**Expert advice**

**Networking**

**Training**

**Publications**

**Events**



**Towards a Virtual University for  
Europe**

**Quality in eLearning**

**Virtual Mobility**

**Re.ViCa**

# *Towards a Virtual University for Europe*

## *VirtUE*

# Virtual University for Europe

Virtual Campus - Network

Flexible ICT based learning/teaching

On demand learning

Network of Universities

Central support service, incl. Techn platform



# Serious barriers



- No policy decisions - no large scale integration
- No integrated curricula
- Negative image, quality
- Practical problems: language, credit transfer, timing,...
- Technological problems
- Compatibility problems
- Business models
- ...

# *Further research and pilots*

Venus

Being Mobile



sustain

BEACON

REVE  
Real Virtual Erasmus



CUBER

UNIQUE



S<sup>2</sup>Net



EUROPACE

# ***What has changed - Trends & Future***

# How 2.0 BETA



New Jersey Central Little League Schedule				
Date	Home Team	Away Team	Field	
4/1/2006	Chester Bucks	Long Valley Hitters	Dawn Field	
4/8/2006	Princeton Pirates	Raritan Rockers	Sunrise Field	
4/15/2006	Summit Strikers	New Providence Punch	John L. Field	





Fostering collaborator

# What else has changed

Bologna Process

European Higher Education Area

Internationalisation = integral part of curricula

Quality models for eLearning

Boundaries disappeared - blended solutions

Individualisation of learning

Social networks

...

# *Quality in eLearning*

# UNIQUE

Quality Label - eL - Institutional Accreditation - HEIs

**Focus** - Quality improvement & Promoting best practices

**3 Areas & Criteria** - Learning/Institutional Context, Learning Resources, Learning Processes

**Process** - 6 stages, incl. SAR & Peer Review

**Result** - accreditation Y/N/C

3 years and quality improvement plan



# Areas and criteria

## **Learning/Institutional context**

- Commitment to innovation
- Strategy and eLearning
- Openness

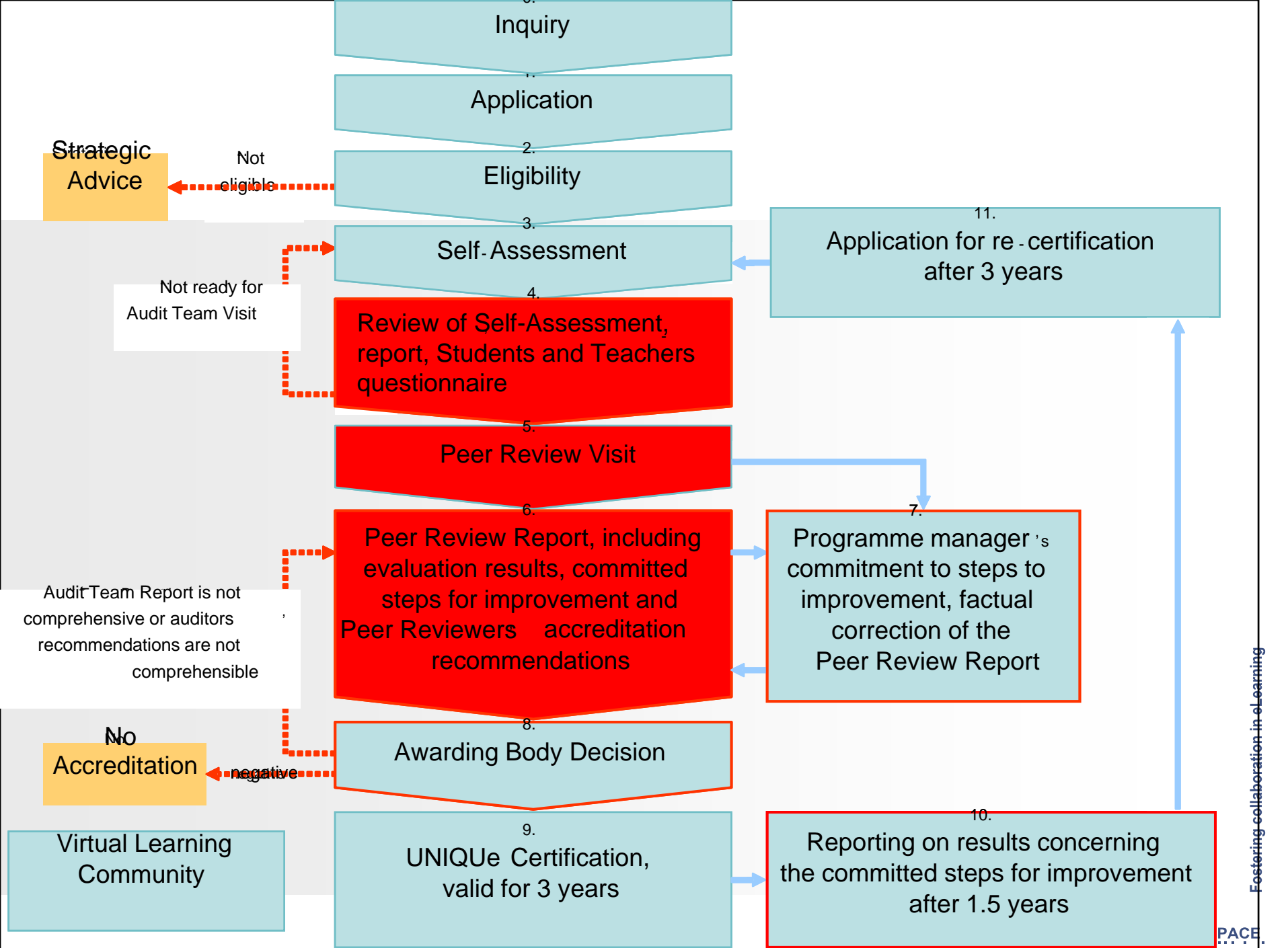
## **Learning resources**

- Students
- Staff
- Learning materials
- Technological equipment

## **Learning processes**

- IPR management
- Personal development/HR development

...



# *From Virtual Mobility to Virtual Campus*

Mobility

University

**VIRTUAL**

Seminar

**Campus**

Class

Course

# Virtual Mobility in Education

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“

Virtual Mobility stands for the use of information and communication technologies (ICT) to obtain **the same benefits** as one would have with physical mobility **but without the need to travel**

”

*[elearningeuropa.info](http://elearningeuropa.info)*

“



Virtual Mobility in education is **a form of learning** which consists of **virtual components** through an **ICT supported learning environment** that includes **international collaboration** with people from different backgrounds and cultures working and studying **together**, having, as its **main purpose**, the enhancement of **intercultural understanding** and the **exchange of knowledge**.

”

*Being Mobile Manual*



“

**International - Technological solutions -  
Intercultural elements - International group of  
teachers - International groups of students -  
Communication**

”

***Movinter Erasmus Mundus Project 2009***





# Types of VM activities

Taking courses through e-learning in another university as part of your study programme

Taking courses from your home institution during your stay in a foreign institution

Joint virtual courses: Taking a course which is offered simultaneously in several universities as a combination of normal courses and e-learning (blended mobility)

Virtual support *before, during and after* a physical exchange

# Virtual support activities *Before* the exchange

- ▶ Orientation guidelines
- ▶ Course information
- ▶ Pre-selection tools & student selection
- ▶ Preparatory courses (language, culture, digital literacy)

# Virtual support activities *During* the exchange

- ▶ E-Coaching

# Virtual support activities *After* the exchange

- ▶ Virtual assessment and evaluation at a distance
- ▶ Virtual Alumni

# Opportunities

Cross-border collaboration between institutions & people from different backgrounds and cultures, community building, European citizenship

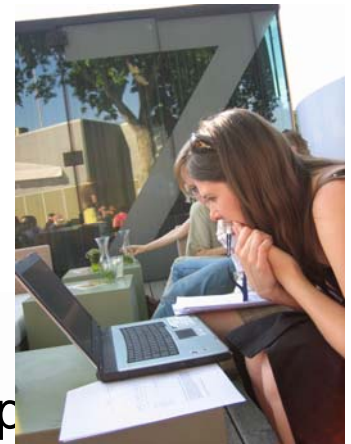
Knowledge exchange, availability of experts from outside

Acquisition of ICT skills needed in working life

Enrichment of the traditional learning activities

Access & Democratisation

Flexibility



# Challenges & recommendations

## Organisational

- planning, timing, tasks
- contracts, legal affairs
- (ac)creditation, credit transfer
- quality

## Pedagogical

- didactical model
- adaptation course structure
- Student motivation

## Technological

- support and training
- accessibility and interoperability between online environments



# Blended Mobility

Combine aspects of physical and virtual mobility to maximize the advantages of both

Virtual support *before, during and after* a physical exchange



# ***What is a Virtual Campus Nowadays?***

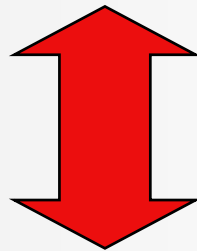
## ***Re.ViCa***



# Past: clear boundaries

Registration, administration, course provision, tutoring,  
examination, creditation

traditional university  
**on-campus**



virtual university  
**online**

# Re.ViCa – Reviewing Virtual Campus

“ *Re.ViCa will make a review of virtual campuses all over Europe. By comparing European and non-European initiatives, success-factors will be described and guidelines created to enable institutions to set up a Virtual Campus to maximize their performance*

”

# Re.ViCa - activities

## Research

- Make an inventory of European VC Initiatives  
=> bottom up through WIKI Software

Combine with in depth case analyses of Virtual Campuses

Comparison with non-European examples

Define their success factors

Provide conclusions, indicators

Experts to review and improve

# Critical success factors

Quality assurance

Training

Staff recognition

eLearning strategy

Planning

Technical support units/staff

Foresight

Student satisfaction

...

# Re.ViCa - outputs

Global benchmark overview

Concept of Virtual Campus (definition?)

Analysis of cases, best practices

Guidelines & recommendations

Wiki on virtual campus <http://revica.europace.org>

# Thank you!

[www.europace.org](http://www.europace.org)

Wiki on virtual campus

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