

Maria Stix and Andreas Buranich

UNO teaching materials and e-learning platforms session 2

Date: January 12, 2012

Time: 11:35-01:35pm

Location: G0545 UNIS Multimedia Room

Panel:

Moderator: Prof. Thomas Krüßmann, University of Graz

Jennie Holck-Clausen: Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law

Simone Heri: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes UNODC

Jacek Cukrowski: UN industrial development organisation UNIDO

Philip Amann: OSCE

Prof. Thomas Krüßmann started this session with the pronouncement that e-learning is an important web 2.0 tool which can help to share knowledge with people that are far away and with those who are poor and cannot afford to attend courses. Thus, information can be brought to a larger group which is possibly far away. Currently, the EU is financing the introduction of high-speed internet Asia. This helps promoting e-learning, although there are many prejudices as such for instance that students need direct teaching. The acceptance of this new technology might be a question of age as the youth is growing up using these new instruments while older generations feel unable to cope with it.

Jacek Cukrowski explained the mission of his organization UNIDO which is briefly told to reduce poverty while enhancing sustainable industrial development and sharing knowledge. For promoting this the objectives of the institute for capacity development are towards providing member states with new solutions and best practices in industrial development, or developing research and policy analysis capacities which engages a sustainable industrial development. Furthermore, in order to reach its target UNIDO is reliant on cooperation with non UN organization. For instance, UNIDO has together with academic institution established study programs as cooperation is crucial to the success of all programs. There is to be found an Education Program, a PHD Program, a Joint research Program which promotes scientific research through collaboration between UNIDO and world leading research and academic institutions, and a fellowship program through which fellowships are awarded to candidates from developing countries and countries in economic transition. Moreover, there is a summer program to promote capacities of young professionals through innovative courses in selected thematic areas related to sustainable industrial development. All this made it necessary to introduce a Distance Learning Program with its purpose to reach out globally to an ever growing audience through targeted e-learning courses. The UNIDO's Institute for Capacity Development's capacity is currently tested and under development. In 2012 there will be conducted the first E-

learning course named "Diagnostics for Industrial Value Chain Development" that was developed by UNIDO Agri-Business Branch. This website will offer information regarding UNIDO, its programs, its services e.g. E-learning, its courses, contest and awards, good practices, learning resources and partnerships. This distance learning offers huge potentials thus will increasingly be used for future courses.

Mrs. Simone Heri introduced the organization UNODC and the need to brief countries about the introduction and surveillance respectively the adherence of national action plans. Trainings can be a solution thus law schools, police and other active representatives are being involved in computer based trainings by multidisciplinary teams as information is provided together with global training initiatives and e-platforms. The aim of this training is that people are being trained who will afterwards will train others, and as a result will increase the number of investigations and prosecutions of traffickers by providing in depth specialized training. An important element pose e-platforms although not offering e-learning users can find information on YouTube, Twitter or Flickr, and on the website unodc.org/cld there is to be found a Human trafficking case law database for which there are cooperation projects together with law schools. Moreover, interested institutions willing to contribute may contact UNODC for case studies.

Mrs. Jennie Holck-Clausen of Raoul Wallenberg Institute responsible for human rights of women presented the institute's pilot course in a blended learning form with the content women in south East Asia. Members of target groups are academic and national organizations, hence, people arrive with a different background, experience and knowledge. This disadvantage has to be overcome but contrary e-training courses offer big advantage as they reduce costs for participants, and participants can decide when, where and how to read and learn all necessary parts. The supplied information contains practical information regarding how to protect human rights and human trafficking. The Wallenberg Institute offers this course as a four weeks online course with each module's duration lasting one week. Eventually there was a meeting in Bangkok as meeting students while doing practical tasks was of great importance. All participants were well trained as everything that is contained in a face to face training has to be included in e-learning too. This e-learning course was the best possibility to combine practical and theoretical parts while the institute tried to be as open as possible to personal demands. A possible drawback is insufficient Internet availability respectively its speed as for multimedia and interactive purposes as streaming videos need to be element of the course because students shall be encouraged to be actively involved online. Summing up, e-learning and e-platforms have to consider local capabilities to be a real success. In the year 2012 there will be put online a human rights training platform.

Next, Philip Amann from the OSCE informed the audience how his organization manages information and what is put online. The website polis.osce.org uses POLIS (Policing OnLine Information System) through which a digital library, information regarding history of OSCE to its current focus on human trafficking is provided to user. Further, a central aim is being online in local languages as e.g. Russian language is more relevant in many regions than English! Next, there is an events calendar to inform interested users about upcoming events. Furthermore, of course there are many lessons learnt: you have to hunt relevant information – this means to get information, post regularly or care for newsletter, supply users with a forum. All this takes a lot of time! After attending a workshop on prospects of e-learning the OSCE decided to develop its own e-learning system with its goals offering basic introduction to human rights and sexual exploitation of children on the internet. A big necessary point is that everything has to be translated for users, i.e. if Afghan people are the target

group someone who speaks Afghan language has to cope with most people being illiterates. IT is never a solution but it can be a support and thus helpful. Regarding blended learning it is to be said that it is a good instrument if you can handle the problem that major things have to be part of face to face presentation. Otherwise, there is a lack of connection and organizations get hardly any feedback from students.

In a question round and regarding micro learning of small information parts with short duration Mr. Quirchmayr commented it to be too costly and too short to be effective. The only main benefit is accessibility but at what price. Next, localization meaning to cover local contexts and the translation of texts into local languages is an important factor of success. Summing up, e-learning is a good method to activate all students as they might have a different level of knowledge. In addition it can be used for prior internship periods to do online course in advance which can be combined with a possible financial support if passed. Lastly, it is important to receive feedback as content and interface has to be changed regularly to guarantee a long lasting success. This can be done through a follow up evaluation or constant feedback.

Relevant internet links:

<http://www.summer.ceu.hu/green-2012>

<http://institute.unido.org>

<http://www.unodc.org>

<http://www.rwi.lu.se>

<http://polis.osce.org>