Future of the UNU-Global Virtual University

Creating a shared vision to fulfill the innovative potential of online learning for Sustainable Development

April 2007
UNU-GVU

- UNU-GVU is a collaboration between UNU, UNEP, UNEP-GRID Arendal and AUC and is an inclusive program open for wide participation.
Unique characteristics

- Thematic focus on environment and development in line WSSD and the UNEP work plan; Major contribution to DESD.
- Balance between online learning and face to face contacts (blended design).
- Codesign of programs between experts in the North and the South, with an initial focus on Africa.
Present status:

UNU-GVU: Existing Global Network of partners

- Agder University College (AUC), Southern Norway
- University of Tromsø (UiT), Northern Norway
- University of Bergen (UiB), Western Norway
- Stord Haugesund University College, Western Norway
- Environics Foundation (EFI), Washington DC, USA
- Kenyatta University (KU), Nairobi, Kenya
- Institut Supérieur de Développement Rural des Grands Lacs (ISDRGL), Kumasi, Ghana
- Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology (KNUST), Kumpala, Uganda
- Makerere University (MU), Kampala, Uganda
- Mekelle University, Ethiopia
- Mogadishu University, Somalia
- Mzumbe University, Tanzania
- Suez Canal University, Egypt
- University of Pretoria, South Africa
- University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka
- University of Zimbabwe
Present status:
Existing programs or programs under development

Environment Information Management
University of Pretoria
SADC network

Development Management
Agder University College
University of Ruhuna
Mzumbe University
Mekelle University
Makerere University
Kwame Nkruma University

Online learning
Stord Haugesund University College
Agder University College

Freshwater management
Suez Canal University

Sustainable Societies
Environc Foundation International
US – Network
Africa - Network

Earth Science related Law-of-the-Sea
University of Bergen

Biosafety
Genøk Institute
University of Tromsø

AFUNET
AAU, ITU, UNU
African universities

MESA
UNEP, UNU, UNESCO
AAU, African universities

UNU-GVU Centre
Norway
UNU-GVU Strategy

• Strengthen multilateral collaboration on education for sustainable development
  – Create groups of universities in the South and the North working together

• Establish regional centres and build capacities in the network; to start with in Africa.

• Develop and run joint study programmes according to UNU-GVU standard framework
  – Ensure mutual recognition of competence between equal partner universities.
  – Ensure possibility for international recognition
Goals for UNU-GVU 2008 - 2015

• Increasing participation and ownership by Southern institutions
• Create UNU Research and Training Programme (RTP)
  – Collaboration between staff, secondments, visiting academics from the UNU-GVU Network, including UNEP, GRID Arendal and the partner universities.
• Core funding of 2 million Euros per annum until 2015, UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development
• Implement range of education for sustainable development projects and educational programmes
• Develop global network through synergies with other parts of the UNU, UNEP, GRID-Arendal, with other UN bodies and related international initiatives.
Deliverables 2008 - 2015

- **UNU RTP** in Norway
- **Network** (up to 100 universities by 2015).
- **UNU-GVU regional centres** at partner universities (5-10 by 2015).
- “**Training of trainers**” workshops (two to one workshops per annum).
- E-learning **projects** with partner universities
- **UNU-GVU Challenge**: partner universities encouraged to present project proposals for financial support from the UNU-GVU.
- **Joint projects** with i.a. GRID-Arendal, UNU Media Studio and the UNEP Education and Training Unit.
- **Annual UNU-GVU Conference**.
- International **online tutor and course developer programmes**.
- **Master’s degree programmes and short courses**.
Leveraging

• Increasing ownership by Southern partners
  – Rewarding and equal collaboration
  – Mutual recognition of competence
  – International recognition of grades
  – Sustainable development integrated in curricula

• Synergies within the UNU System
  – horizontal coordination with other UNU research and training centres, i.e. social and human development (UNU-WIDER, Helsinki), innovation systems and development (UNU-MERIT, Maastricht), natural resource management (UNU-INRA, Accra) water, environment and health (UNU-INWEH), Hamilton, Ontario) and global health (UNU-IIGH, Kuala Lumpur).

• Synergies within the UN System
  – support UN bodies such as FAO, UNDP, ITU, UNIDO, WHO, UNESCO in poverty eradication and sustainable development
UNU-GVU Regional Centre

Infrastructure:
Premises, Connectivity, Local area network, Servers

Governance:
Academic Board

Funding:
UNU-GVU Hosting institution

Researchers

Fellows

Students
UNU-GVU Regional Centre

- Build on existing capacities and capabilities.
- Select and train local staff in online learning issues (tutoring and course development).
- Establish support functions to the regional network.
- Select sustainable development issue for the regional focus.
- Develop and run educational programs and courses in the region.