



Opening Speech

delivered on 11 June by
His Excellency Mr Ivo Josipović,
President of the Republic of Croatia

Conference organisers,
Rector of the University of Zagreb,
Director of the University Computing Centre SRCE,
Conference participants,
Dear guests,

I am delighted that the Republic of Croatia is this year hosting a highly regarded annual conference of the European Distance and E-Learning Network – which is considered to be the most important annual event on open, distance and e-learning.

I am delighted that two reputable Croatian scientific institutions – the University of Zagreb and the University Computing Centre SRCE are hosting many scientists from all around the world. This testifies to the fact that their efforts and results in e-learning have been recognised at the international level.

This is yet another excellent opportunity for the Croatian academic community to show to what extent the application of e-learning has taken hold at Croatian universities and their constituent parts; and to what extent its application has contributed to raising the quality of the teaching process and achieving better learning results. As I understand today there are over 9000 university e-courses and a wide-spread system of encouraging activities related to e-learning, both for students and teachers.

Today, development of modern science and education is inconceivable without information and communication technologies in all scientific fields; not only in engineering and biomedical sciences, but also in social sciences and the humanities, and also in arts. Creativity and innovation are beyond individual areas. Modern technologies cannot make a creative individual but they can contribute to his development and his results achieved in a field and supplement his creativity in an innovative way.

Equally so, the development of modern science and education cannot be imagined without nurturing ethical values underlying our civilisation. These values should always tip the scales and guide researchers, teachers and students in their work. Academic ethics is an ideal by which every researcher, teacher and student should be guided. This needs to be emphasised over and over again.

The topic of this year's conference EDEN 2014 "From Education to Employment and Meaningful Work with ICTs" is important and very topical. Both for us in Croatia, and for the European Union and the world. Unemployment is today the major global problem. How can the use of open education, distance and e-learning help in reducing the problem of unemployment? How to cope with the present-day world where always new skills are demanded on the labour market, the basic prerequisite for which are information and computer technologies skills? I am confident that this conference will offer answers to these questions, bring up some new subjects and offer good guidance for improving the situation marked by these important social problems...

I wish every success in work to all conference participants and a pleasant stay in Croatia to all foreign guests.



About

Established in 1991 as an international educational association and not-for-profit organisation, EDEN is open to institutions and individuals dealing with e-learning, and – more broadly speaking – open and distance education. Its aim is to share knowledge and improve understanding amongst professionals in the field and to promote policy and practice across the whole of Europe and beyond. With more than 200 institutional members and over 1200 members in the Network of Academics and Professionals (NAP), EDEN assists a wide range of institutions, networks and individuals to become involved in professional information and networking activities. It does so through the organisation of acknowledged European conferences, its publications and information services, and by taking an active role in a wide range of important EU projects. EDEN has also proved successful with thematic activities such as the Open Classroom Working Group (school level distance education), and by contributing to, and promoting, 'cutting edge' research in the field. In addition, EDEN has also provided extensive secretarial support to the European Journal of Open, Distance and E-Learning (EURODL).

Further information: <http://www.eden-online.org>

About the event

Conference Title: EDEN 2014 Annual Conference: From Education to Employment and Meaningful Work with ICTS – E-learning at work and the workplace

Organiser: EDEN – European Distance and E-Learning Network

Host: University of Zagreb, University Computing Center (SRCE), Croatia

Date: 10-13 June 2014

Venue: Hypo Centre and University Computing Center (SRCE), Zagreb, Croatia

Further information: http://www.eden-online.org/2014_zagreb.html