

## Virtual Labs: the new frontier of university research

From India to Japan, from USA to Europe, the importance of creating and implementing virtual laboratories is worldwide recognized as the new frontier of university research. Several studies emphasize the vital role of virtual labs in developing academic achievement, providing awareness of scientific concepts, and reducing the learning time spent in the traditional lab.

The virtual laboratory experience allows students to develop practical and crucial skills such as real world problem solving, designing, communication, team work, independent thinking and creativity, enabling experimentation beyond the boundaries of real laboratories. Virtual labs respond to the need of sharing costly equipment at a national and international level and consent to students belonging to geographically remote and economically constrained institutes to perform experiments that they would not otherwise have access to. Moreover, from a pedagogical point of view, they stimulate learners' curiosity by providing them with the chance to learn both basic and advanced concepts through remote experimentation. The several benefits of this new technology-mediated approach to research are highlighted in the latest issue of GUIDE Association's publication *FormaMente* which contains diverse contributions from international universities and research centres that help understand the extent and perspectives of the virtual labs' phenomenon.

## Publish your scientific works on the new dedicated section of the Association's website!

Following the request of some of its members GUIDE Association has created on its official website a new section dedicated to international **research articles** and publications which could represent a further valuable tool of cooperation and knowledge sharing within our community.

The section will be subsequently organized in a series of topics (chemistry, biology, economics, engineering etc.) according to the papers received. Of course the number and typology of topics will be progressively increased without any limitation.

In this respect you are warmly invited to send articles and papers concerning your scientific studies that you would like to showcase, share and promote through GUIDE website.

## GUIDE's latest projects and initiatives

**LINQERS** - We are glad to inform you that GUIDE Association has submitted a further project responding to a call for proposals under the European Commission programme ERASMUS+ MUNDUS. The project, whose name is **LINQERS** - Linking Indian National Qualifications to the European Recognition System, aims at promoting the European Higher Education Area in India by carrying out a comparative analysis between the European and Indian Frameworks of qualifications currently in force in the two regions. This analysis will result in a proposal for a new overarching Indian general framework of qualifications for Higher Education and Lifelong Learning to be presented at a policy-making and institutional level. The harmonization of qualification frameworks throughout the world is a crucial topic for favoring the recognition of credentials and increasing the mobility of students and workers across the countries.

**UNITED EXCELLENCE - High Quality University Programs for Advanced Careers** - The new GUIDE knowledge sharing platform has become a reality. We are pleased to inform you that its structure and graphical architecture have been completed and that the first joining confirmations have been received. We invite all of you to go in with the project since it is beginning in order to take advantage of their several benefits and being part of a large community devoted to create excellence and quality for high achieving students.

# UPCOMING CONFERENCES WORLDWIDE

## **2012 3rd International Conference on Education and Management Technology (ICEMT 2012)**

Jeju Island, South Korea, 29th - 30th June 2012

<http://www.icemt.org/>

## **EDULEARN2012 – 4th annual International Conference on Education and New Learning Technologies**

Barcelona, Spain, 2nd – 4th July 2012

<http://www.edulearn12.org>

## **International Conference on Information and Knowledge Management (ICIKM 2012)**

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 24th - 26th July 2012

<http://www.icikm.org/>

## **International Conference on Education Technology and Computer (ICETC 2012)**

Cape Town, South Africa, 18th - 19th August 2012

<http://www.icetc.org/>

## **2nd International Conference on Education, Research and Innovation - ICERI 2012**

Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 28th - 29th September 2012

<http://www.iceri.org/>

## European and International Calls for Proposals

**This Section keeps GUIDE Members updated with the latest opportunities to participate in cooperation and research programmes.**

GUIDE Project Office will offer support in the search and constitution of partnerships and in the project drawing up.

**GUIDE Members are kindly invited to send their proposals and to suggest other opportunities of funding.**

**Warning: pay attention to the deadlines, the constitution of partnerships and the projects writing take time**

### **EduLink II Programme (2007-2013)**

EDULINK represents a harmonised approach for the implementation of European Commission funded programmes in the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States with a view to improving the effectiveness, management, visibility and hence the impact of ACP-EU co-operation in the field of higher education. The overall objective of the EDULINK Programme is to foster capacity building and regional integration in the field of higher education through institutional networking, and to support a higher education system of quality, which is efficient and relevant to the needs of the labourmarket, and consistent with ACP socio-economic development priorities.

**Deadline: 30 July 2012**

<http://www.acp-edulink.eu/content/edulink-ii-call-proposals-launched>

### **Seventh Framework Programme – Marie Curie International Incoming Fellowships**

The present call (FP7-PEOPLE-2012-IIF) is launched under 'People' Specific Programme of the Seventh Framework Programme (2007 to 2013) which acknowledges that one of the main competitive edges in science and technology is the quantity and quality of its human resources. To support the further development and consolidation of the European Research Area (ERA), the overall strategic objective is to make Europe more attractive for researchers. The Specific Programme aims to strengthen, quantitatively and qualitatively, the human potential in research and technology in Europe, by stimulating people to take up the profession of a researcher, encouraging European researchers to stay in Europe, and attracting to Europe the best researchers from the entire world.

**Deadline: 16 August 2012**

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/people;efp7\\_SESSION\\_ID=D2qkPfvROrbx2hNI4z1GXKHv9MrJchH7TJ6DJyMJICrq6DNPxvqd!-595385755?callIdentifier=FP7-PEOPLE-2012-IIF](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/people;efp7_SESSION_ID=D2qkPfvROrbx2hNI4z1GXKHv9MrJchH7TJ6DJyMJICrq6DNPxvqd!-595385755?callIdentifier=FP7-PEOPLE-2012-IIF)

### **Seventh Framework Programme – Marie Curie International Outgoing Fellowships for Career Development**

The present call (FP7-PEOPLE-2012-IOF) is launched under 'People' Specific Programme of the Seventh Framework Programme (2007 to 2013) which acknowledges that one of the main competitive edges in science and technology is the quantity and quality of its human resources. To support the further development and consolidation of the European Research Area (ERA), the overall strategic objective is to make Europe more attractive for researchers. The Specific Programme aims to strengthen, quantitatively and qualitatively, the human potential in research and technology in Europe, by stimulating people to take up the profession of a researcher, encouraging European researchers to stay in Europe, and

attracting to Europe the best researchers from the entire world.

**Deadline: 16 August 2012**

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/people?callIdentifier=FP7-PEOPLE-2012-IOF>

### **Seventh Framework Programme – Marie Curie Intra-European Fellowships for Career Development**

The present call (FP7-PEOPLE-2012-IEF) is launched under 'People' Specific Programme of the Seventh Framework Programme (2007 to 2013) which acknowledges that one of the main competitive edges in science and technology is the quantity and quality of its human resources. To support the further development and consolidation of the European Research Area (ERA), the overall strategic objective is to make Europe more attractive for researchers. The Specific Programme aims to strengthen, quantitatively and qualitatively, the human potential in research and technology in Europe, by stimulating people to take up the profession of a researcher, encouraging European researchers to stay in Europe, and attracting to Europe the best researchers from the entire world.

**Deadline: 16 August 2012**

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/people?callIdentifier=FP7-PEOPLE-2012-IEF>

### **Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP) 2012 EAC/27/11**

The Programme for Community Action in the Field of Lifelong Learning (the Lifelong Learning Programme – LLP)<sup>1</sup> aims to contribute through lifelong learning to the development of the EU as an advanced knowledge society, with sustainable economic development, more and better jobs and greater social cohesion. In particular, it aims to foster interchange, co-operation and mobility between education and training institutions and systems within the EU so that they may become a world quality reference.

Applicants must be established in one of the following countries: the 27 Member States of the European Union, the EFTA-EEA countries: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland and candidate countries: Croatia, Turkey.

The main sub programmes' deadlines are as follows:

**Comenius, Grundtvig: Lifelong learning: next deadline: 17 September 2012**

**Transversal Programme: Key activity 1 – Study visits: next deadline: 12 October 2012**

[http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/llp/funding/2012/call\\_lifelong\\_learning\\_2012.php](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/llp/funding/2012/call_lifelong_learning_2012.php)

### **Life+**

The LIFE programme is the EU's funding instrument for the environment. The general objective of LIFE is to contribute to the implementation, updating and development of EU environmental policy and legislation by co-financing pilot or demonstration projects with European added value. The current phase of the programme, LIFE+, runs from 2007-2013 and has a budget of €2.143 billion.

**Deadline: 26 September 2012**

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/lifepius.htm>

### **EURO-MED YOUTH PROGRAMME IV ENPI SOUTH REGION EuropeAid/131261/L/ACT/PS**

The global objective of this Call for Proposals is to support and strengthen the participation and contribution of youth organisations and youth from the Euro-Mediterranean region towards the development of civil society and democracy.

The specific objective (s) of this Call for Proposals is/are: to stimulate and encourage mutual understanding between young people within the Euro-Mediterranean region and to

fight against stereotypes and prejudices; to promote active citizenship among young people and enhance their sense of solidarity; to contribute to the development of youth policies in the different partner countries.

**Deadline: various deadlines from 1 November 2011 to 1 January 2013**

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/onlineservices/index.cfm?ADSSChck=1302692885110&do=publi.detPUB&searchtype=QS&orderby=upd&orderbyad=Desc&nbPubliList=15&page=1&aoref=131261>

**For Further Information concerning GUIDE projects and proposals:**

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