

# An Introduction to the VRTUOSI Program

**Carlos Antunes, János Fodor, Mario Peñas, David Rios, Alexis Tsoukias, Esko Turunen**

U. Coimbra, Obuda U., Habber Tec, Royal Academy, U. Paris Dauphine,  
Tampere U. Tech.

---

*Abstract: The paper describes VRTUOSI, a pioneer program on virtual exchanges of Decision Sciences and Technologies courses among five European Universities. We cover the whole life cycle of the project.*

*Keywords: e-learning, Virtual Exchanges, Decision Sciences and Technologies, Erasmus*

---

## 1 Rationale for the VRTUOSI program

It is commonly acknowledged that the exchange program ERASMUS (European Action Scheme for the Mobility of University Students) can be regarded as one of the biggest successes of the European Union (EU) educational policy in the past years. Since its launching in 1987, more than 3,000,000 students and teachers have participated in their programmes. However, most participants have been undergraduate students, being the presence of postgraduate students merely testimonial. One of the main reasons for this phenomenon may be that, being more mature, postgraduate students might have more restrictive family and/or professional ties.

With this motivation in mind, we have proposed the EU our VRTUOSI project, <http://www.vrtuosi.com>, within the Virtual Campus methodological framework of the EU Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP) <http://ec.europa.eu/education/index.en.htm>. Ours was one of the five proposals chosen by the EU in the 2009 call.

In this talk, we provide a detailed description of the VRTUOSI program, placing special emphasis on its more paradigmatic issues, which might be of interest to other Higher Educational Institutions planning to implement similar programmes.

## **2 General description of the VRTUOSI program**

The VRTUOSI program permits the virtual exchange of courses among five universities: Universidad Rey Juan Carlos (Spain), Université Paris-Dauphine (France), Universidade de Coimbra (Portugal), Óbuda University (Hungary), Tampere Tech (Finland). It has also the support of Habber Tec S.L. It focuses on exchanging postgraduate courses in the field of Decision Sciences and Technologies, mainly among students of those five universities. It includes also an Open Access part with materials from the courses. There are 10 courses including all covering 3 ECTS. Courses are taught in English.

## **3 Implementation**

We shall cover the key issues that may be of interest for other groups of universities interested in implementing similar schemes. This includes:

- Legal framework.
- Virtual campus design.
- Teacher training and educational guide.
- Marketing and course registration.
- Courses.
- Quality improvement.
- Validation.
- Sustainability.

### **Acknowledgements**

This work was supported by VRTUOSI project, [www.vrtuosi.org](http://www.vrtuosi.org), within the Virtual Campus methodological framework of the EU Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP, code 502869-LLP-1-2009-ES-ERASMUS-EVC)