



TEMPUS PROJECT CD JEP 18046-2003
Management and (e)Business Education in
Computer Studies

Workshop:
Developing new BIT curricula

London, October - November 2006

Developing new BIT curricula

A group of Sts Cyril and Methodius University from Skopje and St Clement Ohridski from Prilep and from Bitola realized this visit in the scope of the teacher retraining and curriculum development activity. Our hosts were Prof. D-r Dilip Patel and Prof. D-r Shushma Patel. The main idea of this visit was to enable the delegation consisting of dean and vice deans from Faculty of Economics in Prilep to start a new curricula together with other partners about Business Information Technology. The new curriculum is made according to the existing BIT curricula at LSBU.

The first session was intended to overview **University management**. The vice chancellor, pro-vice chancellors and deans are responsible persons for university management. A person can be lecturer, senior lecturer or principle lecturer. A professor is appointed according to his/her standing in international community. According to budget there was staff redundancy and therefore the workload of professors and lectures is high (approx.14h per week- min 6h per week). The fees for students is 3000 per year and 8500 for overseas students. Home students get loan from government funds and pay back when their salaries are higher then 18000 per year.

The second session was intended to overview **University structure**. There are 4 faculties and several departments per faculty. Each department has 12-15 staff. This department was born by merging the business and IT departments. The head of department is responsible for all activities performed and managing the budgets.

The intention of creation or integration of departments is mainly **market driven** according to the number of students. The main idea is to give education to average student with competitive skills and knowledge. The rankings are made upon positions and employments after students earn University degree.

The third session was about organizing **University courses**. The complete idea is **market driven** according to the interest of students. Courses are constructed through analysis of communication skills; technology; management; business integration.

The main principle is “Technology from business perspective”. The interest for studying has changed over last years: Year 2001: 200 students in BIT, 100 in Computing (previously more interest in BIT); Year 2006: 100 in BIT and 80 in Computing (now equal).

There is government strategy in UK that computing is national strategic area like mathematics and it will support computing courses.

BIT is established for 12 years at LSBU and also in cooperation with China and African countries. There are also “sandwich” courses – 2 years at LSBU and third year in industry. One possibility is by franchise – registered as LSBU student, do their assessments, come in London for exams.

In order to get franchise they require a working document, approve, and submit to quality unit for validation, visit foreign university to evaluate facilities, resources. LSBU diploma is awarded in this case and double degree is preferred. Coursework and examination should be in English!

The final session concerned **development of the BIT course**. The philosophy was to enable students without IT background to develop IT solutions and for those who were with IT background to understand the business demand. They keep updating all courses and adapt to current demands. The idea is to enable students use basic skills to develop applications.

The first semester they obtain basic skills. They gain knowledge in all aspects of computing and all aspects in business. The BIT course enables to accommodate themselves to their interest. They can change their interest during their study.

Interesting idea is to make four units realized in two semesters instead of realization in one semester (30 weeks of knowledge embedding instead of 15 weeks).

The first semester 4 fat units (one year) and 2 thin semester. The second semester 4 fat units (one year) and 2 thin semester. The third semester consists of 4 units. The fourth semester 3 consists of core and one option. The fifth semester 2 consists of core units, 1 project (one year) and 1 option. The sixth semester consists of 1 core unit, 1 project (one year) and 2 options. There are total of 24 units (the project is B.Sc. thesis = one year project = 2 units). 4 different courses are identified as: e-BIT (e-Business) based on web technologies; BIT; Internet Computing; Multimedia Computing.