



UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY
UNU-ViE
Vice Rectorate in Europe

Innovative Capacity Development through eLearning with a Special focus on Africa

26-27 November 2008
UN Campus Bonn, Germany

Survey Results

Mobilizing the United Nations University resources and knowledge for an efficient use of eLearning technologies for capacity development was the ambitious goal of the UNU strategic workshop held in Bonn, Germany (26/27 November 2008): "Innovative Capacity Development through eLearning with a Special Focus on Africa." In order to support the expert discussion and exchange of information and build on the experiences of the different UNU institutes, a brief stock taking exercise of what is being developed and implemented in terms of e-learning activities, of available expertise, capacities and infrastructure was conducted beforehand in the form of an online survey.

With the help of the participants of the UNU strategic workshop who completed the online survey, we gathered information on how eLearning is perceived and implemented at UNU in the various Research and Training Centres Programmes. The survey covers the following topics:

- Strategy and policy for eLearning
- ELearning activities
- ELearning and networking

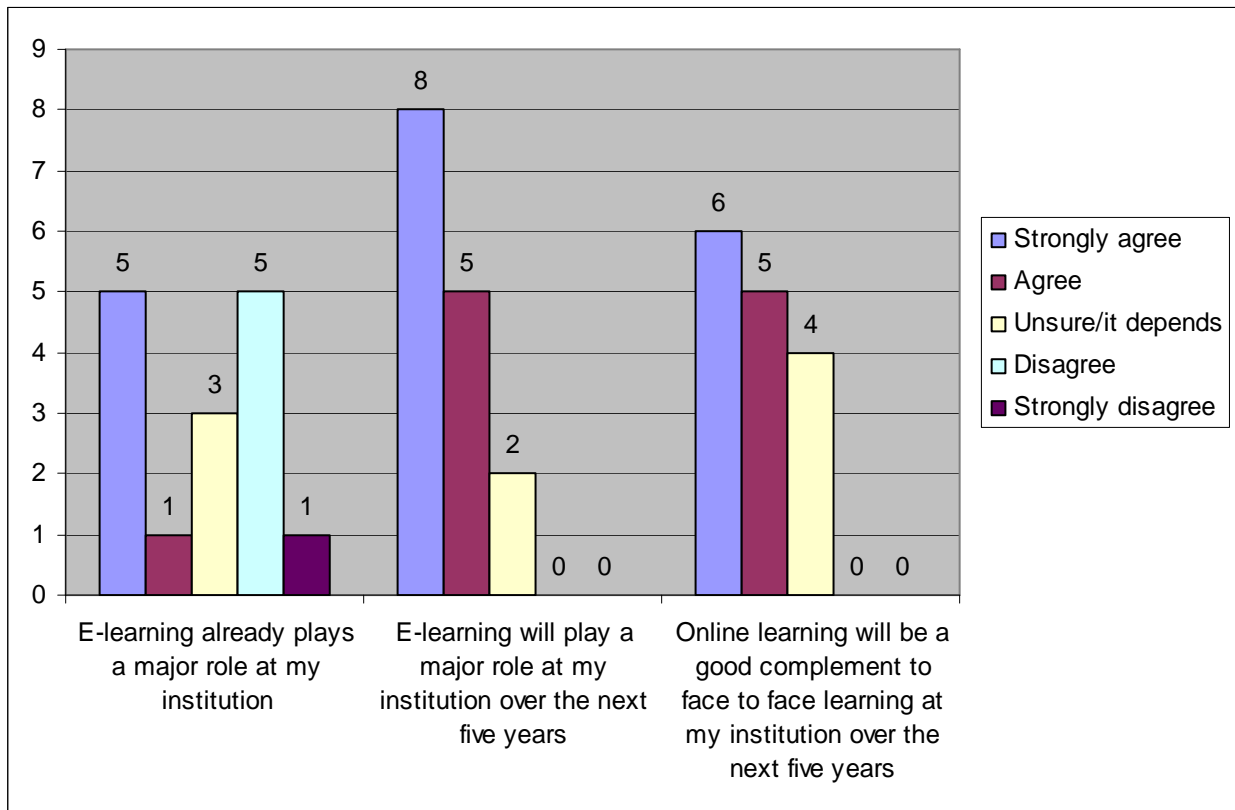
Thanks to the 15 respondents from UNU institutes as well from partner educational institutions, the survey shows that eLearning already plays an essential role in the work of UNU institutes. There is, for example, a remarkable tendency to integrate eLearning into capacity development activities in UNU institutes and/or in co-operation with other educational institutions. Almost all institutes do already have eLearning activities in place in one or more sub-sections. Moreover, all institutes plan to deliver online courses, curriculum, eLearning content, and have expertise capacity to implement eLearning activities.

The survey provides a first step for gathering initial experiences to be built upon and elaborate a holistic UNU capacity building service portfolio to develop, implement and improve innovative capacity building methodologies using eLearning and ICT and to disseminate them effectively.

**Questions 1-4:
Personal details**

Question 5:

From your personal perspective please indicate your opinion on the following statements by clicking the appropriate number:

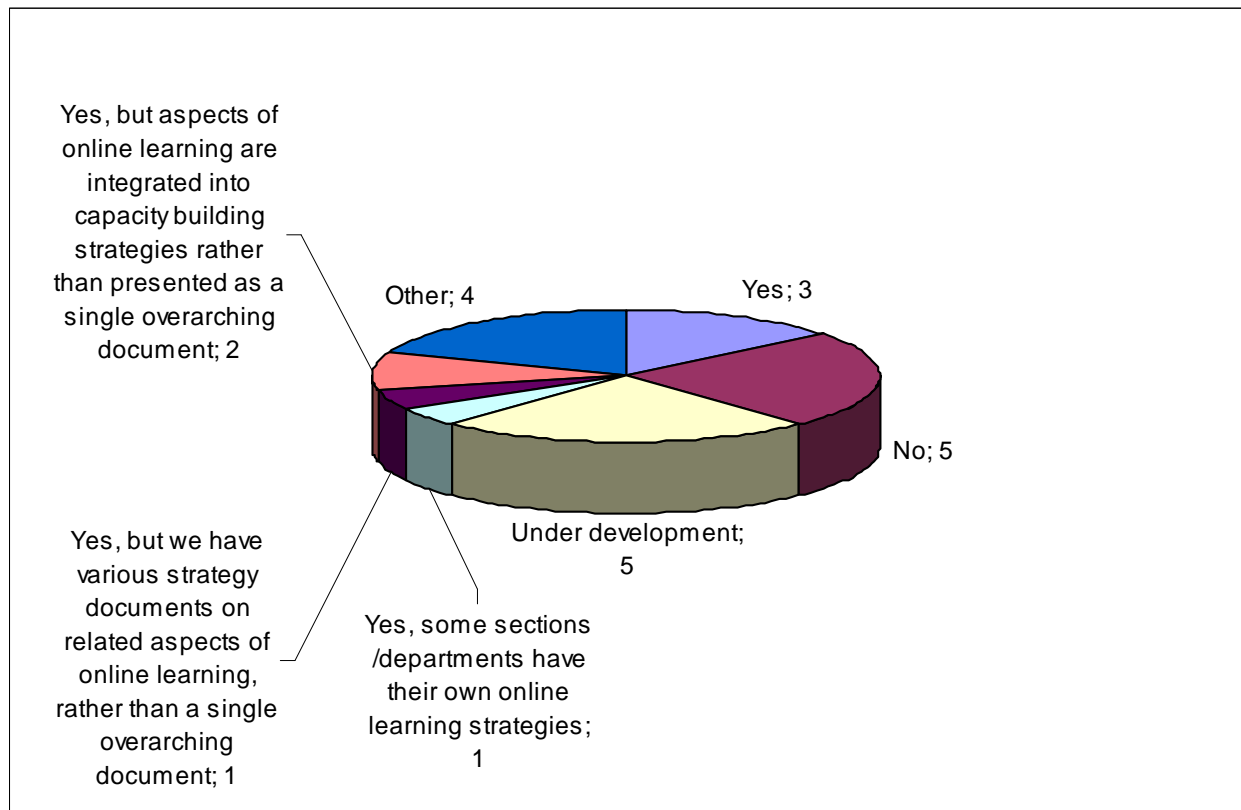


Additional comments:

- face to face learning will always be paramount
- in blended courses and increasingly in courses with a distance learning component and the same environment will also support research collaboration

Question 6

Does your institution have an institution-wide “E-Learning Strategy” or equivalent?

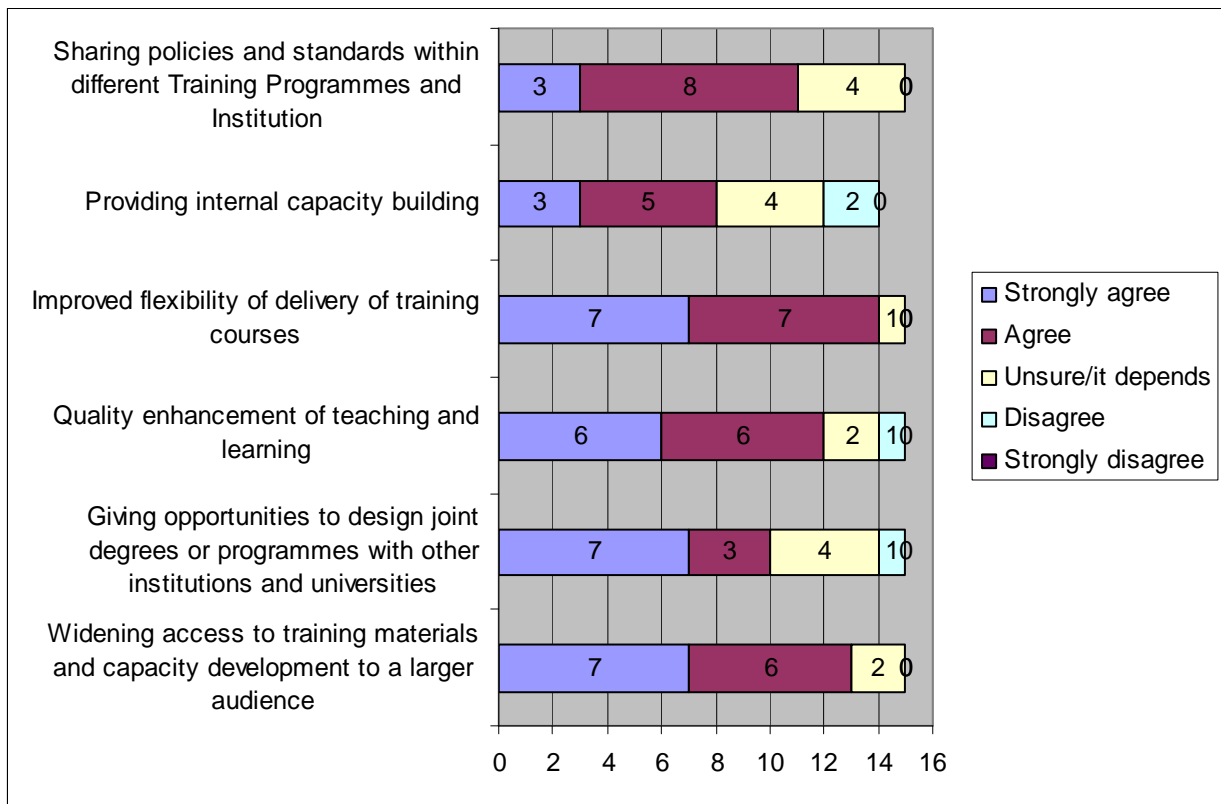


Additional comments:

- Harmonisation of various initiatives is difficult
- E-learning is an area we are involved in but as a component of distance education around which our research and development activities are focussed
- An e-learning strategy group is formed. This group is to develop training in using e-learning and support the development of e-learning materials.

Question 7

Do you think that e-learning can support capacity development activities at your institution in the following ways?



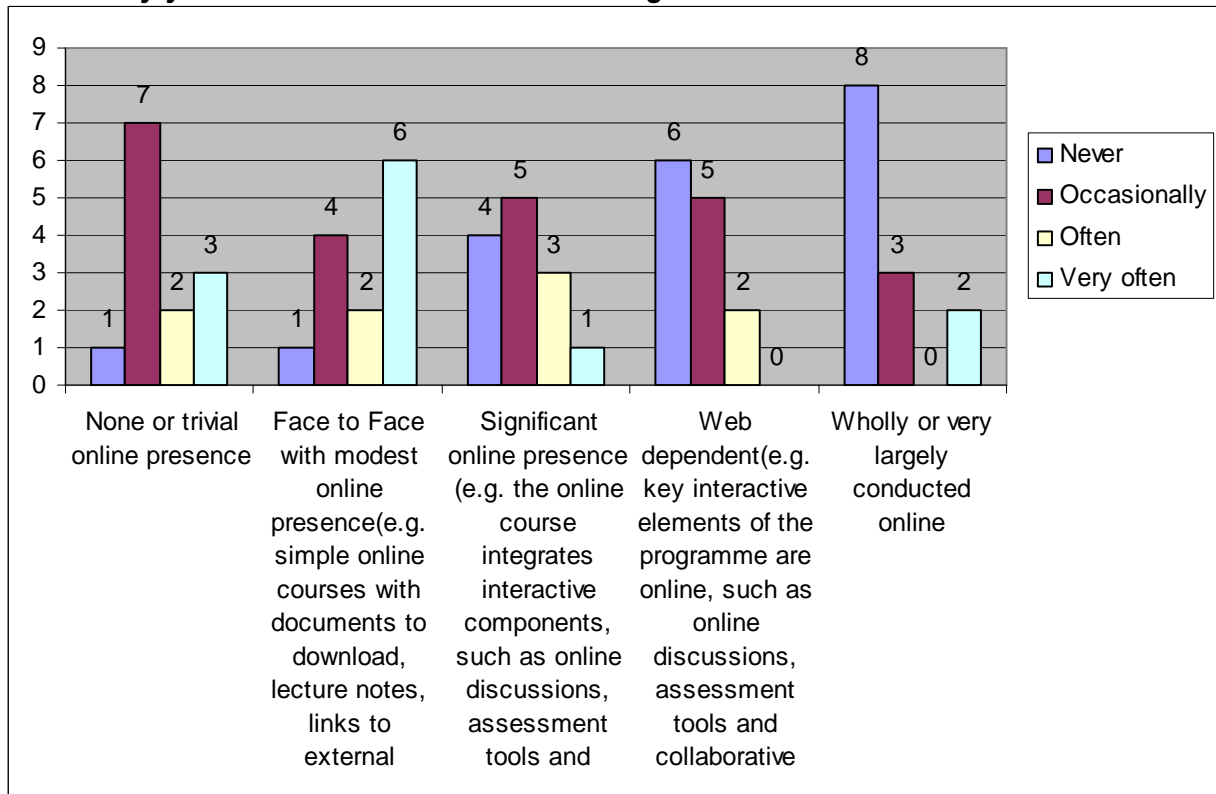
Additional comments:

- Depends very much on the physical and psychological internet access by this larger audience - this is at issue in South Africa too
- Though most of this happens face to face
- If this refers to capacity building activities of our partners and professionals in developing countries then yes widening access is needed
- Attitude change required, in-situ capacity building workshops is still the first choice here, lack of awareness of the potential of e-learning tools and systems

Question 8

E-Learning activities/Online mode

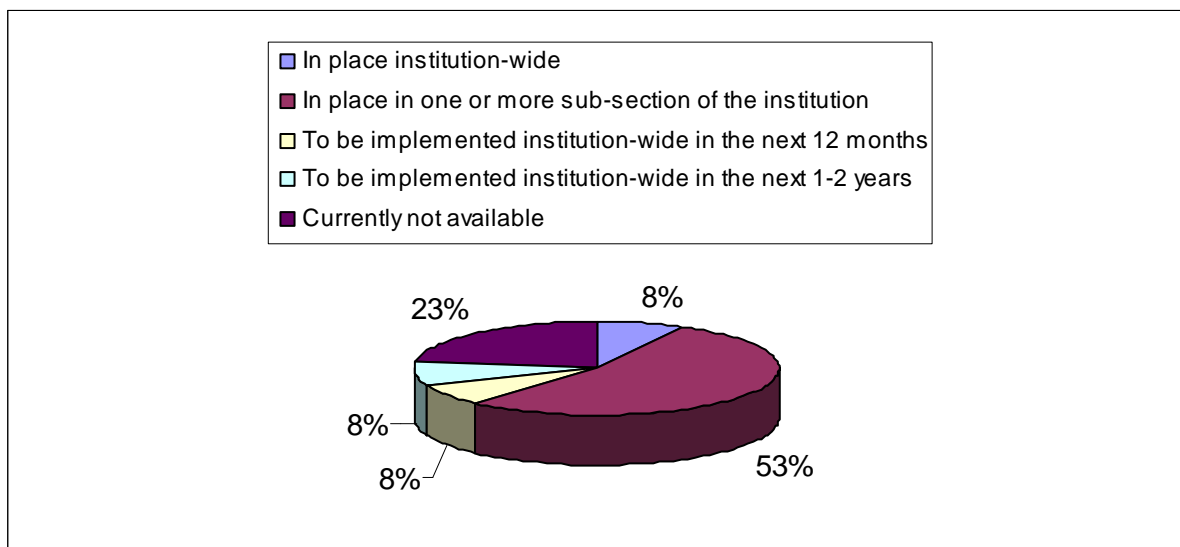
According to your best estimate, how often do current programmes/courses offered by your institution have the following online modes?



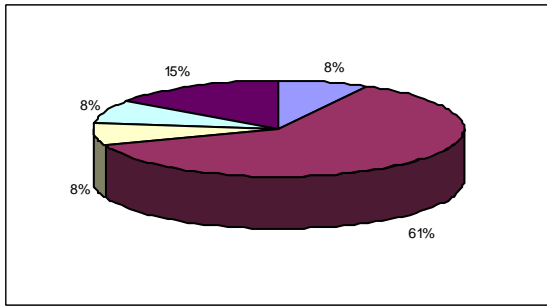
Question 9

E-Learning activities/Teaching and Learning Processes

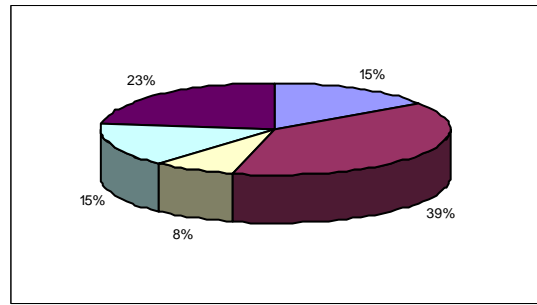
Staff expertise for development of e-learning courses



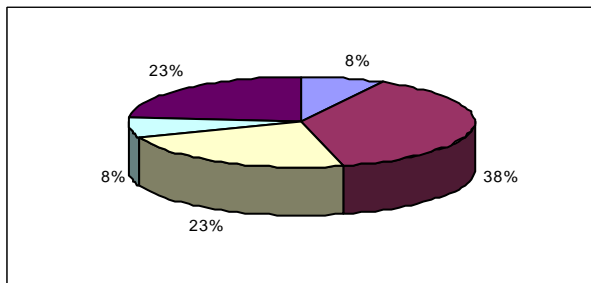
Staff expertise for delivery of partial e-learning courses



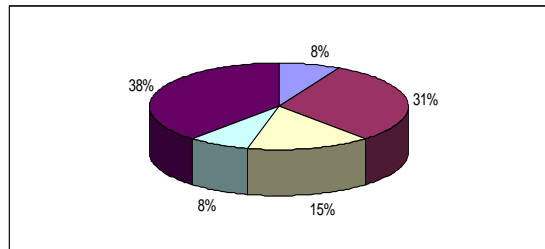
External support for development of content to support online learning



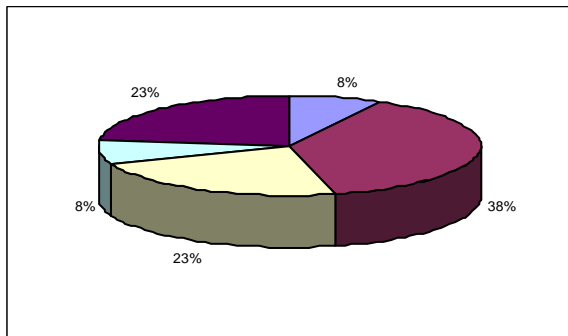
Staff expertise for delivery of fully online courses



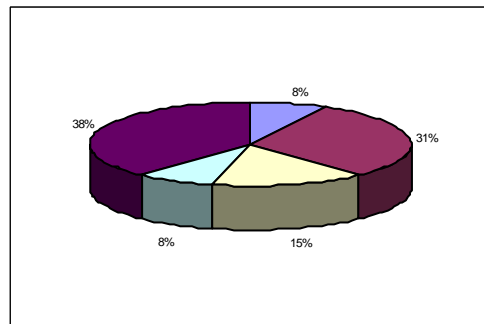
Online courses are supported with e-tutoring / facilitation



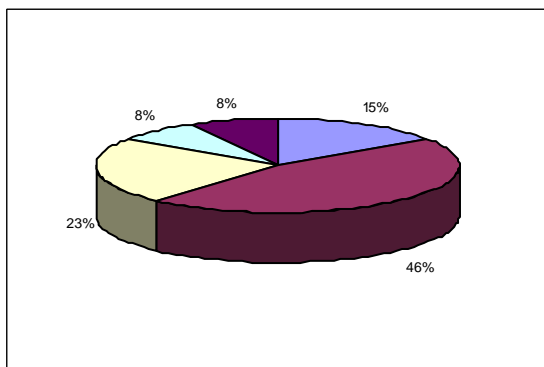
Staff e-tutoring/facilitation skills and competencies



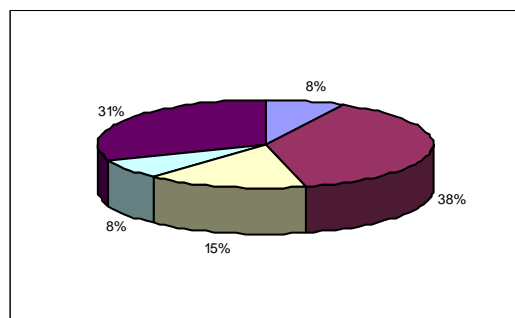
Online courses are designed with interactive group learning activities (social learning)



Staff expertise for development of content to support online learning

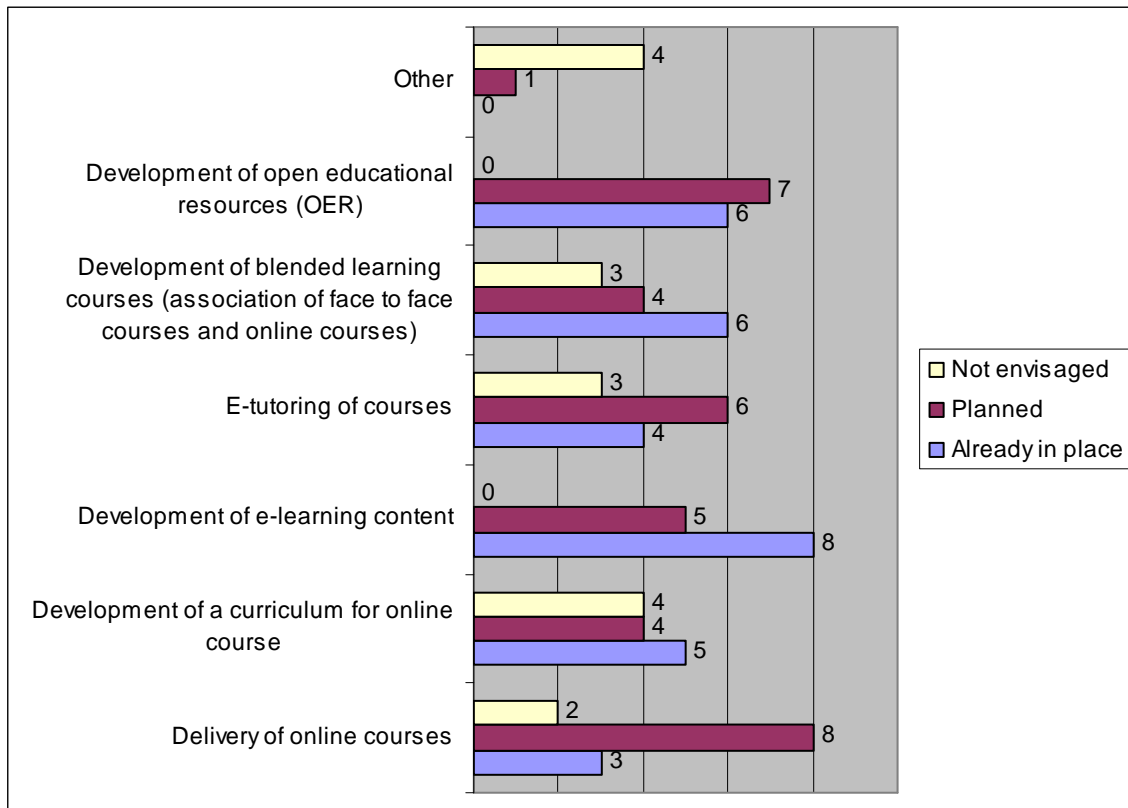


Online courses are designed with individual activities (self paced learning)



Question 10

Please indicate the status of e-learning activities at your institute.

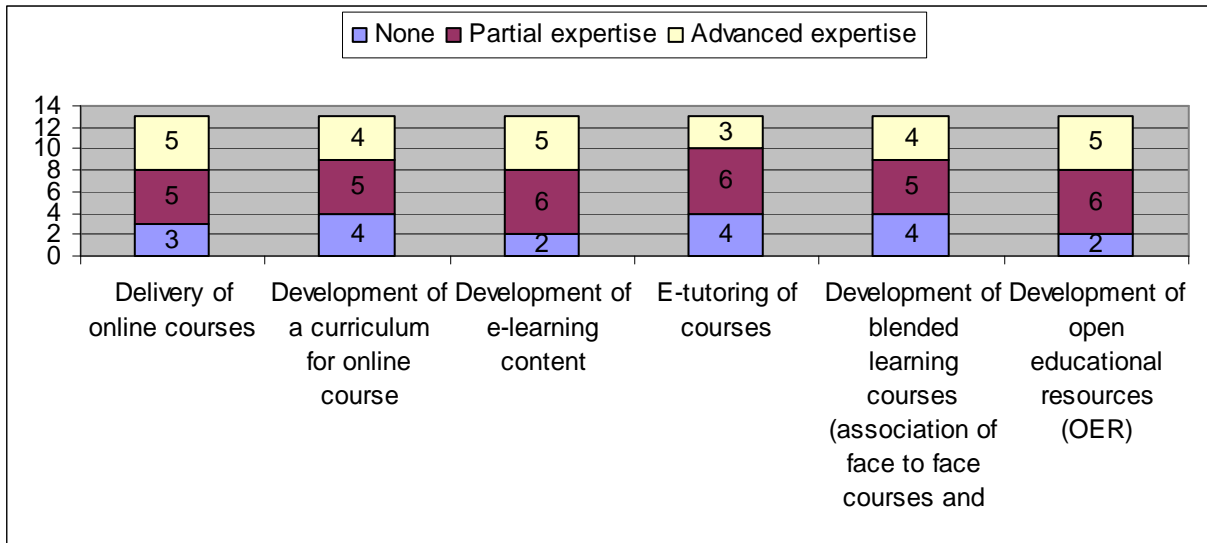


Additional comments:

- Still very unusual since almost all courses have a face to face component. Colleagues in Health Sciences are the closest to having the capacity and run several professional development courses with extended online components.
- Growing cluster of lecturers who facilitate online learning within blended courses - but most rely predominantly on face to face facilitation. Good examples of e-tutoring in specific courses in Anthropology, Sociology, Psychology. Gender Studies, Health Sciences, Economics, International Law-
- We lack policy and systems. There is strong interest in this from an influential minority of lecturers across several faculties.
- This is the way we want to go.
- Research capacity building on the theme of regional integration for a network
- <http://events.streamlogics.com/wto/2004/>, Open knowledge portal

Question 11

Please indicate the current internal capacity to implement e-learning activities at your institute.



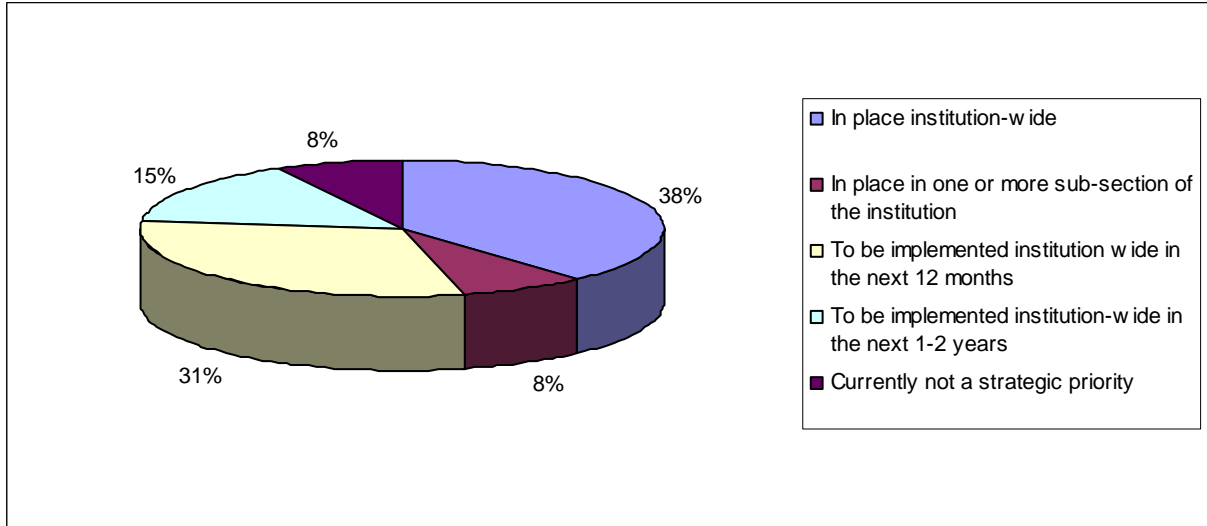
Additional comments:

- These capacities are concentrated in our unit and a cluster of teaching departments which is growing year by year due to the efforts of the departments and our staff development workshops and seminars
- We support lecturers who prefer to teach themselves as well as those who come to workshops and seminars

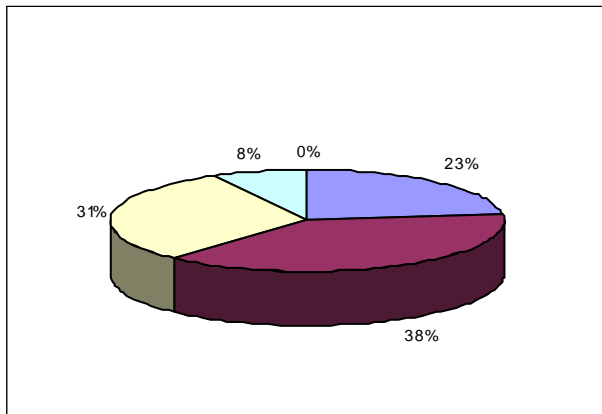
Question 12

E-Learning activities/Technology

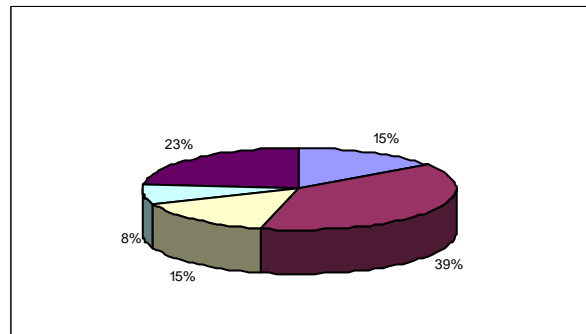
Implementation of a portal system



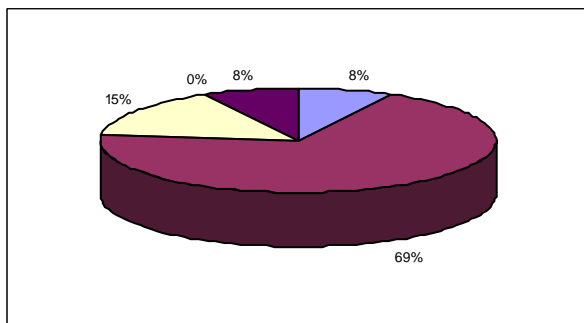
Implementation of a content management system



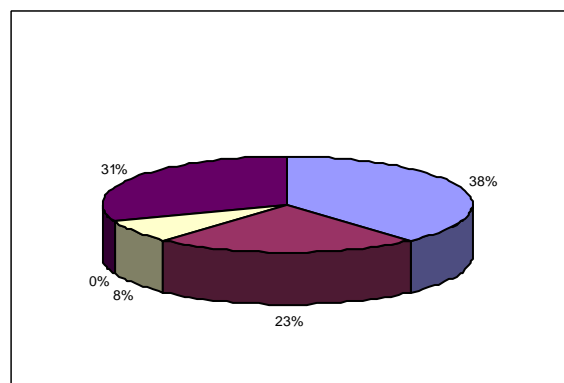
Compliance with international interoperability standards (e.g. MS, SCORM)



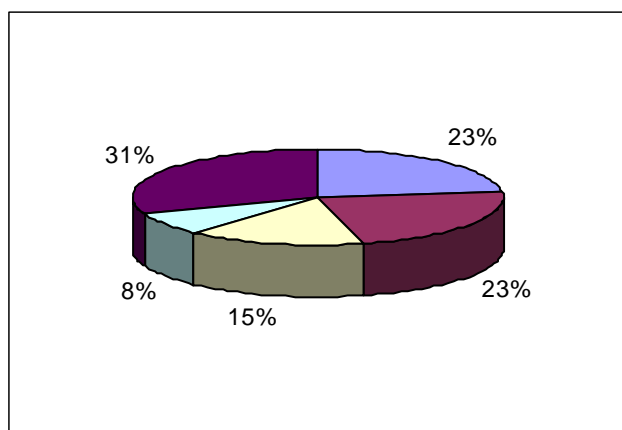
Use of open source applications



Investment in access to online journals and e-books



Integration of disparate academic and administrative IT systems (i.e. purchase of new system ad / or integration of legacy system)



Additional comments:

- Server applications and our online learning environment. Support for linux users has improved over the past few years
- Major drive by our libraries - most economical way to ensure access to the widest range of journals
- Original developer of IMS-Learning Design

Question 13

Does your institution use a learning management system for delivery online course:

5 respondents do not use any LMS yet.

5 from 9 do use Moodle!

Additional comments:

Plus a combination of tools, e.g. real-time interactive virtual classroom using screen sharing and VOIP technologies, web lectures ...

Question 14**Networking**

Which are the main regions for your capacity development activities in your institute?

- Europe , but students from all over the world
- Africa, Asia, Middle East
- South America and Africa
- Developing countries
- Africa
- Africa, Asia, Middle East and Central America

Question 15

Are you aware of e-learning activities run by UNU institutes other than your own? If so, which one(s)?

UNU-ViE

Global Virtual University GUV

UNU Online Media's courses,

UNU-INWEH courses

UNU virtual learning Centre in Tokyo

UNU-OCW initiative

Water Virtual Learning Centre at UNU-INWEH

Course on Regional Integration at UNU-CRIS

UNU-MERIT, UNU-IIST

Question 16

Do you have partner institutions or experts, with which/whom you work or plan to work in relation to e-learning? If yes, please list the top partners.

Complete list of all responses given to this question

- Network of European open universities
- UNU-ViE, University of Kassel Germany, University of Essen, Germany University of Bochum, Germany, University of Strasbourg, France and Technology Outreach project, Maryland, USA
- Collaboration with Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster (Münster University)
- Open University UK, Open University of Catalunya, Keio University
- OSCHA and PSCSI
- Online Media Studio, MERIT, INWEH
- University of Hawaii, Keio University, University of Adger, University of Guadalajara, Sydney University
- E-learning office in Tokyo, IIST
- Tokyo Institute of Technology

Question 17

Is your institution part of any national or international network of universities or other organisations dedicated to e-learning?

- European Association of Distance Teaching universities (EADTU)
International Council on Distance Education (ICDE)
- Euroleague
- EC-funded networks
- Open Courseware Consortium (board member)
- National University of Malaysia
- OCWC, with UNU as a member
- Asia Pacific Initiative - ten universities in the region
- Open courseware

Question 18

Final Comments

- The first step (pilot project) is the production and deliverance of e-learning contents in some selected subjects mentioned above.
- UNU-CRIS has secured funding for a new project (expected to start in 2009) that includes an e-learning component.