

Liege, 6 november 2012

Excellency,

Subject: Follow-up on the Liège for ICT Forum, which was organised as part of Belgium's bid to host the 2017 International Expo. Creation of a global university network to promote education all over the world by means of ICTs, known as "Worldwide Classroom".

We are pleased to write to you as part of our follow-up on the Liège for ICT Scientific Forum, which was held on September 19 to 21, 2012 as part of Belgium's bid to host the 2017 Expo.

It is imperative to keep one of the main conclusions of the Forum on the agenda, namely the need to take immediate action globally to significantly raise the educational level with ICTs on the 2017 horizon.

This is why we propose to use the 2012–2017 period to set up a long-term cooperation project among our countries' universities.

Therefore, we would like you to tell us which universities in your country wish to take part in the creation of a "global network of universities which use and implement ICTs to significantly boost educational levels and the number of people receiving quality education all over the world by releasing the content they produce free of charge and in as many languages as possible".

We also wish to include countries that do not have a University to the project. These countries are therefore warmly invited to identify the interlocutor(s) who will be able to enrich this think tank.

You will find a cover note introducing the network project attached hereto.

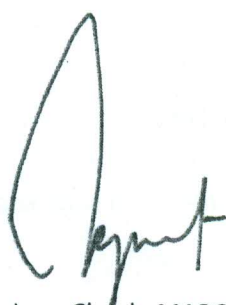
Please reply no later than January 15 and include the details of the contact people for each university interested in the project.

These contacts will be invited to join a "steering group" for the network as soon as possible. Universities can write to worldwideclassroom@ulg.ac.be for further information.


Yours sincerely,



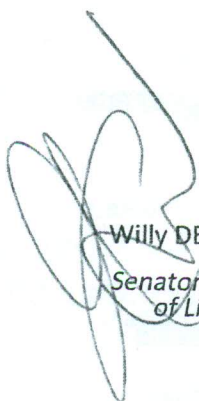
Marie-Dominique SIMONET
*Minister of
Compulsory Education*



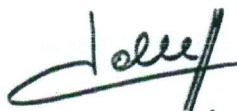
Jean-Claude MARCOURT
*Minister of Higher Education,
Economy, Foreign Trade and
New Technologies*



Bernard RENTIER
*Rector of the
University of Liège*



Willy DEMEYER
*Senator-Mayor
of Liège*



Robert TOLLET
*Chairman of
« Liège Expo 2017 »*



Jean-Christophe PETERKENNE
*General Manager of
« Liège Expo 2017 »*

Ladies and Gentleman the delegates to the Bureau International des Expositions,

For your best information, we are pleased to forward you a copy of the letter sent to the Ambassadors of BIE member States to the Kingdom of Belgium, and related to the creation of a worldwide University network, and more particularly, of a digital worldwide classroom.

The project has been introduced during the International Symposium organized in the context of the Belgian candidacy to the organization of an International Exposition in 2017. This initiative constitutes an evidence of our profound desire to engage in a long-term cooperation process with all the countries of the world.

Yours faithfully,



Robert TOLLET
Chairman of Liège Expo 2017



Jean-Christophe PETERKENNE
General Manager of Liège Expo 2017



Université
de Liège



Liège
Belgium
Candidate city

World Wide Classroom

Virtual universal platform

WWW@

Liège

Belgium

Candidate city



**EXPO
2017**

World Web Classroom

An e-developed project proposed by the University of Liège.



A classroom with a global reach

A means of quality teaching, reasearch, exchange and discussion

A challenge for tomorrow

Technology advances, professions develop, organisations change and teaching methods are transformed.

At the start of the 21st century, needs are increasing both for initial training and on-going training. Universities and all of higher education in general, have also followed this trend. Furthermore, new information and communication technology (NICT) is increasingly used with a view toward life long learning and is becoming, in certain cases, governmental priorities and, in other cases, a tool for recruiting students, as at certain private universities

Henceforth, designing methods for efficient teaching and knowledge sharing that aims, via the use and deployment of NICT, *to significantly increase the level of education and training throughout the world by making the content produced by universities freely available in a maximum number of languages* and with a genuine possibility of exchange and communication between the different players in the learning process, in other words the creation of a veritable *universal netwok of universities*, is probably one of the challenges of the coming years.

Both in training and education, NICT are increasingly used to spread information and to produce documents using specific tools and instruments incorporated in the development of educative technology. They also enable, via interatctive diffusion of content, which is probably their chief advantage, the creation of virtual communities both for trainers and teachers as well as for students.

Initiatives, on a more or less large scale, to integrate NICT into management of university courses have emerged over the last ten years. The University of Liège has participated in this movement with the creation of the WebCT (Web Course Tools) platform developed at HEC-ULg (the management school) which is responsible for structuring the educative approach by distributing the syllabi of on-line courses, the diary of meetings and works, or by providing access to case studies. These platforms make it possible to build up teams and produce individualised test results thus facilitating supervision of the students' learning processes.

“There are two vital factors for improving well-being on a worldwide scale: health and education”.

B. Rentier, Rector



“As Minister for Education but also for new technology, I totally approve and support this.”

J-C. Marcourt, Minister



“The network to be launched is ambitious. It is based on free access and is universal”.

M-D. Simonet, Minister

A strong and ambitious project in phase with its time.

There is a widespread movement that considers investment in basic education as a priority in cooperative actions.

However, not everyone is convinced that higher education teaching is a fully fledged development objective. Nevertheless, many think that this is where global knowledge sharing could be implemented efficiently thus helping to genuinely level up knowledge throughout the world. To make this ambition a reality, we propose to set up an alternative system in which universities and higher education institutions will be involved and federated in order to implement, in a similar way to what is currently happening in the *Open access* movement (in which the University of Liège is a world leader), an international network for knowledge sharing based on free access for all.

As underlined by Professor Bernard Rentier, Rector of the University of Liège, already at the root of developing the policy of generalised *Open access* to scientific resources in Belgium, the **World Web Classroom (WW@)** project is based on a simple principle: there are two vital factors for improving well-being on a worldwide scale: health and education”.

As regards education, we have the technological means to teach all over the world thanks to NICT. As a result, it is necessary to take action and do so via the means of universities. Often used in teaching and sharing of knowledge, NICT encourage educational transformation as well as the improvement of learning because they represent the

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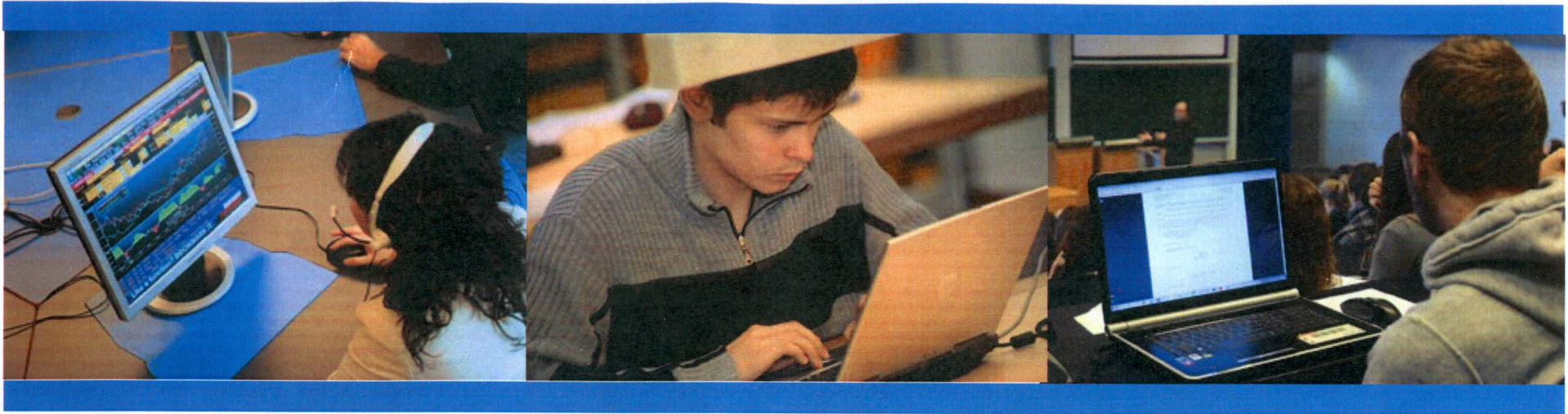
technological vector of a political will and a societal demand. Our universities are, by their very nature, committed to a voluntary quest to improve training.

Today, on the one side there are tens of thousands of content items and on the other, millions of young and not so young people who wish to emancipate themselves. The challenge is to bring them together.

The ambition of the **WW@ project** was to create a worldwide classroom, i.e. a world network of universities organising the supply and the demand but especially enabling the demand to meet the supply on a global scale.

A request for information has therefore been issued, firstly to BIE member countries and more widely thereafter, to participate in this network. The wheels are turning to create a task force that will run the network. What's more, the **LIEGE FOR ICT** forum launched in September 2012 will be transformed into a two-yearly conference for the network. Our aim is, by 2017, to have significantly progressed in educating people by offering them the best university courses in the whole world, free of charge and in a maximum amount of languages!

The initiative is supported by the public authorities of the Wallonia-Brussels region and in particular by the Minister for Higher Education, New Technology and the Economy, Jean-Claude Marcourt and the Minister for Compulsory Education Marie-Dominique Simonet who underlines that “ITC are not just a means to an end but an additional tool that should allow us to attract the interest of young people, born with such technology, to different subjects and different content.



It is a means of create links with the young and getting them interested in subjects that are not especially appealing when they are taught with conventional resources”.

In conclusion, the Minister Jean-Claude Marcourt underlined that “the WW@ is first and foremost the fruit of all the thinking that took place within the scope of Liège Expo 2017. It should be noted that this theme is not aimed at presenting an apologist view of technology, but to determine how it can improve the living standards of men and women throughout the world.

This initiative is in perfect keeping with the theme of Expo 2017 and the role of universities, which must not only be places of teaching, but places of innovation, design and a spingboard to soceiatal changes”. He also added that Developing NICT is necessary for the economic future of a country and a region... in short, thefuture itself”.

With the WW@ Liège 2017 project, it all begins now!

Lancement du projet World Web Classroom
21 septembre 2012



21.09.2012 lancement du projet WW@

Appel à intérêt
octobre-novembre 2012



Appel à intérêt des pays membres du BIE



Constitution de la "task-force" WW@
février 2013



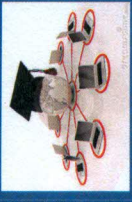
Sur base des premiers échanges d'idées intervenus sur le forum de discussion, constitution d'une « task-force » chargée de développer et de dynamiser le réseau WW@

Lancement officiel du réseau WW@
décembre 2013



Lancement officiels des activités du réseau WW@
- Plateforme de cours et de formations
- Forum de discussion et blog
- Bibliothèque de documentation

Développement de la plateforme
novembre 2012 - janvier 2013



Développement technique de la plateforme et mise en place du premier forum de discussion et d'échange d'idées

Premier colloque WW@
septembre 2015



Deuxième colloque WW@
septembre 2017



2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | World Web Classroom