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TRAINING WORKSHOPS ON ARTICULATE STORYLINE 2 FOR E-COURSE DESIGN

■ Res. Asst. Ece DOĞANTAN

The Research and Development Department for Learning Technologies held a training program on the preparation of e-course materials between December 22, 2015 and January 8, 2016. Offered to 110 academic staff members specialized in different fields, including engineering, business administration, education and fine arts, the training sessions focused on the software Articulate Storyline 2 and Adobe Illustrator. In addition to face-to-face training, a visual classroom environment was created to provide support to academics.

Articulate Storyline 2 is used to create original and interactive designs. The software allows designers to transform course content into effective course materials with the use of sound, visuals and interactive elements. The use of this software will facilitate the learning process of students and enable course designers to use their imagination and creativity to develop more effective course materials. The content of 10 basic courses has already been prepared. It is planned to produce course content for more courses with the participation of greater number of academic staff members into the process.



ANADOLU UNIVERSITY OPEN EDUCATION SERVICES IN BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA AND ALBANIA

■ Asst. Prof. Dr. Didem PAŞAOĞLU

The Open Education System of Anadolu University offers education services not only in Turkey but also in the Balkans, where Turkish citizens live, with its long experience and strong organizational structure. This issue of the bulletin includes information on the programs in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Albania. We would like to thank to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Köksal Büyük, the Group Coordinator of Open Education Faculty, Asst. Prof. Dr. Fatih Kostakoğlu and Res. Asst. Mahmut Sami İşlek for their support and the information they provided.



International University of Sarajevo

Bosnia-Herzegovina

In 2015-2016 academic year, Anadolu University opened two new programs abroad, one in Bosnia-Herzegovina and one in Albania. Between September 9, 2015 and October 9, 2015, 203 candidates applied for the admission test for four associate degree and ten undergraduate programs opened in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and 153 candidates sat for the test held on October 11, 2015. The number of students that succeeded in the test and got enrolled in 2015-2016 academic year was 93. Students of these programs take all advantages of the Open Education System. This academic year, they took midterm



exams on January 9 and 10, 2016. The distribution of students in Bosnia-Herzegovina programs by departments is as follows:

International Relations was the department most preferred by students, and was followed by International Trade and Logistics (17) and Sociology (14).

There are certainly some factors explaining the interest in the programs in Bosnia, although it is a region where people of Turkish origin are not high in number and Turkish is not spoken commonly. In the first place, because of the historical links between Bosnia-Herzegovina and Turkey, the hospitality for Turkish people and institutions has had positive impacts on the interest in programs. Furthermore, the promotional activities conducted in Sarajevo played a role in the growing interest. In addition, the International University of Sarajevo (IUS) and Yunus Emre Institute Turski Kulturni Centar Sarajevo provided significant support to the promotion of programs.

During visits to various non-governmental organizations, including TUMED (Türkiye Mezunları Derneği/Association of Students That Graduated in Turkey), Istanbul Cultural Center, Merhamet Association, TUBSIAD (Türk Bosna Hersek İş Adamları Derneği/Turkey-Bosnia-Herzegovina Industry and Business Association) and BIGMEV (Bosna Hersek ile İlişkileri Geliştirme Merkezi Vakfı/Center

for the Development of Relations with Bosnia-Herzegovina), the administrators were informed about the open education programs to be opened in Bosnia-Herzegovina. In addition to non-governmental organizations, we paid visits to the Turkish Embassy in Sarajevo, Sarajevo Office of Turkish Airlines, Balkans Regional Office of Anadolu Agency and Directorate General of Ziraat Bank to inform them about the programs. Among further efforts to promote the programs were distributing brochures and putting up posters in Turkish businesses, areas commonly populated by Turkish people, university canteens and town center in Sarajevo. Thanks to these efforts, the programs drew the interest of over 200 students in a short period of time.

Albania

Albania is one of the countries where Anadolu University has recently started offering higher education within the Open Education System. The educational activities of Anadolu University started in Albania with final exams in the spring semester of 2014-2015 academic year. Anadolu University held final exams in Albania on June 27 and 28, 2015 in order to enable 35 open education students living in Albania and enrolled in the open education bureau in Prizren, Kosovo, the closest bureau to Albania, to sit for their exams in Albania. The exams were held in the office of Yunus Emre Institute in Tiran, based on the collaboration between Anadolu University and Yunus Emre Institutes.



The final exams held in Albania on June 27 and 28, 2015 drew the interest of Turkish citizens living in Albania and Turkish-speaking Albanian citizens. In order to meet their demand, Anadolu University held an admission test in Tiran, Albania for the first time on October 11, 2015. Yunus Emre Institute in Tiran was the venue of this test taken by 105 students.

Of 105 candidates, 74 students were successful in the test and got enrolled in the programs. The number of active students increased to 96 with students that transferred from Prizren bureau. An office was established in Yunus Emre Institute Tiran for the coordination of open education services.

For 96 students enrolled in the programs in Albania, the fall semester midterm exams of 2015-2016 academic year were held in Yunus Emre Institute Tiran on January 9 and 10, 2016 under the supervision of the Coordination Office in Albania.



TRAINING WORKSHOPS ON BLACKBOARD LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR ONLINE COURSE DESIGN IN OPEN EDUCATION

■ Asst. Prof. Dr. Nilgün ÖZDAMAR KESKİN



Blackboard Training Workshop

Teaching staff in the Open Education System take in-service training related to Blackboard learning management system in order to design higher-quality online courses for open and distance education students. In-service training workshops delivered by Blackboard trainers are quite comprehensive, covering both theoretical knowledge of how to use course design tools and applied knowledge of how to design courses by means of these tools.

What is Blackboard Learning Management System?

Blackboard learning management system is a commercial educational software developed by Blackboard Inc. in 1997, based on Java. Blackboard is used by 80% of the best 50 universities in the world, and by 92% of the most popular universities offering online undergraduate education.

Blackboard works with five platforms, i.e. Bb Learn, Bb Collaborate, Bb connect, Bb Mobile, Bb Analytics. Bb Learn is a service pack with online learning tools that respond to various learning needs.

Bb Collaborate is an online collaboration platform, which has both desktop and mobile device applications. Bb Connect is the platform used for communication. Bb Mobile enables the use of Bb Learn on mobile devices. Bb Analytics facilitates the analysis of institutional data through various data models.

Blackboard enable users to grant awards and certificates to students, as well as provide the opportunity for web conference, mobile collaboration, instant messaging, whiteboard and file sharing.

Blackboard offers comprehensive support services as well as online and face-to-face training services. Training workshops on Blackboard will also be available for teaching staff in other faculties. The aim is to ensure that teaching staff is engaged in the design of online course environments in addition to face-to-face environments, and thus to encourage academics to get adapted to blended learning.