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FACE-TO-FACE CLASSES START IN OPEN EDUCATION

The directive on face-to-face education was adopted for the Faculties of Open Education, Economics, and Business Administration, i.e. the Central Open and Distance Education System of Anadolu University. A directive was drafted in August 2016 for face-to-face education component with a view to responding to open education students' need for face-to-face tutorials with instructors, allowing them to take advantage of the university's library as well as scientific and social events, and enabling them to have greater interaction with the faculty.

Prof.Dr. Naci Gündoğan, Anadolu University Rector, said the following about the directive: "The academic tutoring system is now replaced by face-to-face classes. With the increase in student number, we realized that the previous system started to lose its function. The system was originally launched to enable students not close to Anadolu University to have campus experience and face-to-face contact with instructors. However, the name was confused with academic advising services in campus-based education. In the past, students used to study at home and then come to class, and ask their questions to the course instructor. With the increase in student number over time, academic tutoring has lost its original function and was replaced by face-to-face teaching. This has brought about a change in the name of the component to make the content and significance of this service more comprehensible to users. Thus, in the first place, the name 'academic tutoring services' was replaced by 'face-to-face education services'. We then noticed that there is a need for written guidelines to offer services more effectively. In the second place, we drafted a directive for face-to-face education. This directive will allow coordinators, instructors and students to have more detailed knowledge of duties and responsibilities related to face-to-face classes."

Prof.Dr. Yücel Güney, Vice Rector and Acting Dean of the Faculty of Open Education, explained as follows the face-to-face component of open education: "The aim of this directive is to respond to the coordinators' and our need for written guidelines related to face-to-face education services. We realize the need for written rules when a coordinator in another city asks us questions related to functioning of face-to-face classes and we have to answer their questions systematically. Working meticulously on each word, we drafted a directive that explains clearly the duties and responsibilities of each stakeholder. This will allow us to prevent information pollution, and waste of time due to phone communication. We have already got positive feedback from coordinators."

In the fall semester of 2016-2017 academic year, face-to-face classes for students of the Faculties of Open Education, Economics, and Business Administration start on October 22, 2016 and end on January 13, 2017. In 2016-2017 academic year, face-to-face classes are offered in a total of 93 centers. Students pay no fee for face-to-face classes offered on weekday evenings or at weekends, and may attend the classes presenting their student ID card. Any updated information related to face-to-face classes is announced at bureaus and http://ana.do/uK.

GRADUATION CELEBRATION IN COLOGNE

Instructor Gökhan Deniz DİNÇER

Anadolu University has been delivering education in Europe for three decades. Degrees were conferred upon over 140 graduates of the programs in Western Europe in a ceremony in which faculty members and families participated. Before the ceremony, graduates wore graduation caps and gowns and had photographs taken with their families.

In the 30th anniversary graduation ceremony held in Cologne, Germany, it was indicated that about 30 thousand students got enrolled in programs in Western Europe since 1986, and over 10 thousand students completed the programs. Ten programs are offered in Western Europe. Students have been particularly interested in the programs in International Relations, Sociology, and Theology.

Hüseyin Emre Engin (Consul General), Prof.Dr. Naci Gündoğan (Anadolu University Rector), Prof.Dr. Yücel Güney (Vice Rector, and Acting Dean of the Faculty of Open Education), Prof. Dr. Nevzat Yaşar Aşıkoğlu (Turkish Embassy Religious Services Counselor, and Head of Türkische Islamische Union der Anstalt für Religion e.V.), and Asst. Prof. Dr. Ahmet Atilla Doğan (Coordinator for Programs in Western Europe) delivered speeches in the graduation ceremony.

Furthermore, Salih Toprak (a graduate of the Department of International Relations, Faculty of Economics, Anadolu University) made a speech on behalf of graduates.

The speakers drew attention to the importance of Anadolu University's mission in meeting educational and cultural needs of Turkish people living in Europe.

All graduates were invited to the stage after certificates of achievement were conferred. Fresh graduates had pictures taken with the faculty and other guests. The graduation ceremony ended with the tradition of tossing caps.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND ANADOLU UNIVERSITY CAME TOGETHER IN DISTANCE EDUCATION WORKSHOP

Res.Asst. Çağlar KARADUMAN

Anadolu University shares its experience with other public institutions that use or are willing to use distance education methods. Between October 11-13, 2016, Anadolu University participated in the Workshop on Assessment of Educational Content, a part of the project entitled Distance Learning in Health Education, and National and International Accreditation of Education Programs carried out by the Turkish Ministry of Health. Prof.Dr. Naci GÜNDOĞAN (Anadolu University Rector) and Prof.Dr. Yücel GÜNEY (Vice Rector) attended opening of the workshop with other faculty members. Prof. Dr. Eyüp GÜMÜŞ (Undersecretary in the Ministry of Health), Prof.Dr. Fatma Meriç YILMAZ (Deputy Undersecretary), and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sema ZERGEROĞLU (Project Coordinator) also took part in the workshop. After exchange of knowledge and experience of distance education on the first day, the participants worked in teams on the second day. The representatives of the Ministry of Health and Anadolu University in each team focused on distance learning in health education. On the third day, the teams finalized their reports and presented them to other groups.

Prof. Dr. Naci GÜNDOĞAN, making one of the opening speeches, highlighted that technological infrastructure and facilities were not enough to achieve the goals in distance education, but educational content is equally important. Talking about the workshop, Prof. Dr. Yücel GÜNEY mentioned that Anadolu University had 30 years of experience in distance education, and sharing this experience with other organizations would accelerate the achievement of distance education goals in these organizations. Prof.Dr. T. Volkan YÜZER, Head of the Department of Distance Education, made a presentation entitled "Distance Education: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow", stating that the content of distance learning in health education can be constructed optimally with cooperation between Anadolu University's staff experienced in distance education and the Ministry's subject-matter specialists.

EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION IN DISTANCE LEARNING

Res.Asst. Dilşad TEKİN

Learning materials in the Open Education System have been updated according to modern-age needs and conditions. An information meeting was held on October 10, 2016 in order to promote new learning shows developed by the TV Production Center with the use of a new instructional design and new techniques. Sections from learning videos were presented in the meeting, where Prof. Dr. Naci Gündoğan (Anadolu University Rector), Prof.Dr. Yücel Güney (Vice Rector, and Acting Dean of the Faculty of Open Education), Asst. Prof.Dr. H. Selçuk Kıray (Coordinator of TV Production Center), staff in the TV Production Center and members of the press were present.

"Courses and e-learning materials get more diverse"

Prof.Dr. Naci Gündoğan stated that, during its history of over 30 years, open education at Anadolu University has been at the disposal of people not only in Turkey but also beyond the borders, and that they have done their best to take this system one step further. "The Open Education System is a fruit of all university staff. The Open Education System started with textbooks, as the only course material. Yet, over time, significant progress has been made to develop course materials. Television has become a part of distance learning, TV programs have been produced. Such programs have been improved over time. Last year, a new e-learning portal named Anadolum eCampus was introduced. It was developed to bring together all learning materials under a single roof," he continued.

"We hope that courses and e-learning materials will get richer and more diverse in coming years," he added. "Using today's technologies, we exert efforts to enable our students to understand more easily. Hopefully, we will be able to make courses and e-learning materials available to our students in a quicker, easier and more practical way. We will not leave our students on

their own with textbooks. I would like to extend my gratitude to all members of TV Production Center, especially Asst.Prof.Dr. H. Selçuk Kıray, coordinator of the Center. I hope that learning shows will be useful for our students," Prof.Dr. Gündoğan said.

"Brand new learning videos produced with a new system"

In the beginning of his speech, "We presently offer educational services to about 2.5 (active and passive) students in the Faculties of Open Education, Economics, and Business Administration. The Open Education System now delivers a total of 53 programs, 36 associate and 17 undergraduate degree programs," said Prof.Dr. Yücel Güney, Vice Rector of Anadolu University and Acting Dean of the Faculty of Open Education. Referring to the services offered by the TV Production Center so far, "These services have improved particularly with TRT Okul, which allows us to teach anywhere in the world," he said. Prof. Dr. Yücel Güney explained that ten-minute learning videos would be available online at Anadolum eCampus, and that intensive use of graphic expressions would help students learn more easily. "All our staff – from faculty members to staff in the instructional television, from lighting and sound technicians to directors – have exerted great efforts for the production of videos. I would like to thank to our Rector, who made it possible for us to produce these materials, and all my colleagues who contributed to this project. I hope that videos will be useful for our students and contribute to their learning," he continued. Prof.Dr. Güney then left the floor to Asst. Prof.Dr. H. Selçuk Kıray, coordinator of TV Production Center.

"We reinterpreted learning shows based on our past experience"

Dr. Kıray provided detailed information about learning shows: "The TV Production Center has made significant progress for 34 years. Its original aim is to produce learning and educational programs; however, we see that the Center has so far made a wide range of productions from movies to TV shows, promotional films to advertisements. Many learning shows were produced with the use of modern technologies of the age. We reinterpreted learning shows based on our past experience. We developed a new instructional design with a new technique in considertaion of today's students and their habits."

Explaining the stages of production, Dr. Kıray divided the process into three categories: before shooting, shooting, and after shooting. Scriptwriters prepare scripts in cooperation with editors and associate editors through an internet portal. "We prepared a content template for editors. Content scripts prepared by editors were redesigned by scriptwriters in the form of TV scripts. A director and a team of camera operation then took part in shooting process. The learning shows were ready after image and sound editing of shots," he continued.

"Over 500 episodes of learning shows for 50 courses"

The preparations for new TV programs ended in March 2016, and subsequently the teams started working on productions. Over 500 episodes of learning shows for 50 courses were completed in a period of seven months. Textbooks were taken as main sources of reference when the programs were produced. "Textbooks generally consists of eight chapters. We decided to match the number of episodes for a course with the number of chapters in the given textbook, and asked editors to highlight the main points in textbooks. By doing so, we limited the length of programs. We produced 10-minute learning shows for each chapter. Thus, we had 8 to 24 episodes of learning shows for each course. These 10-minute shows are of modular nature, and can be revised and reproduced easily based on any changes in textbooks," he explained.

In the production of learning shows, professional presenters were employed for the first time, in addition to academic faculty members that have effective body language. "All shooting for learning shows were made in front of green background in TV Production Center studios. This is not a new technique; however, it is used for the first time in the production of learning materials in the TV Production Center. This technique known as green box is advantageous as there is no need for extra setting in the studio or exterior shooting," Dr. Kıray added. At the end of his speech, he extended thanks to all people that contributed to the project.