EUNIS E-Learning Snapshots 2008

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E-Learning Snapshots: Aims

One of the activities of the EUNIS E-Learning Task Force.

1. To provide basic info. about implementation & current trends in e-learning in a number of European Universities.

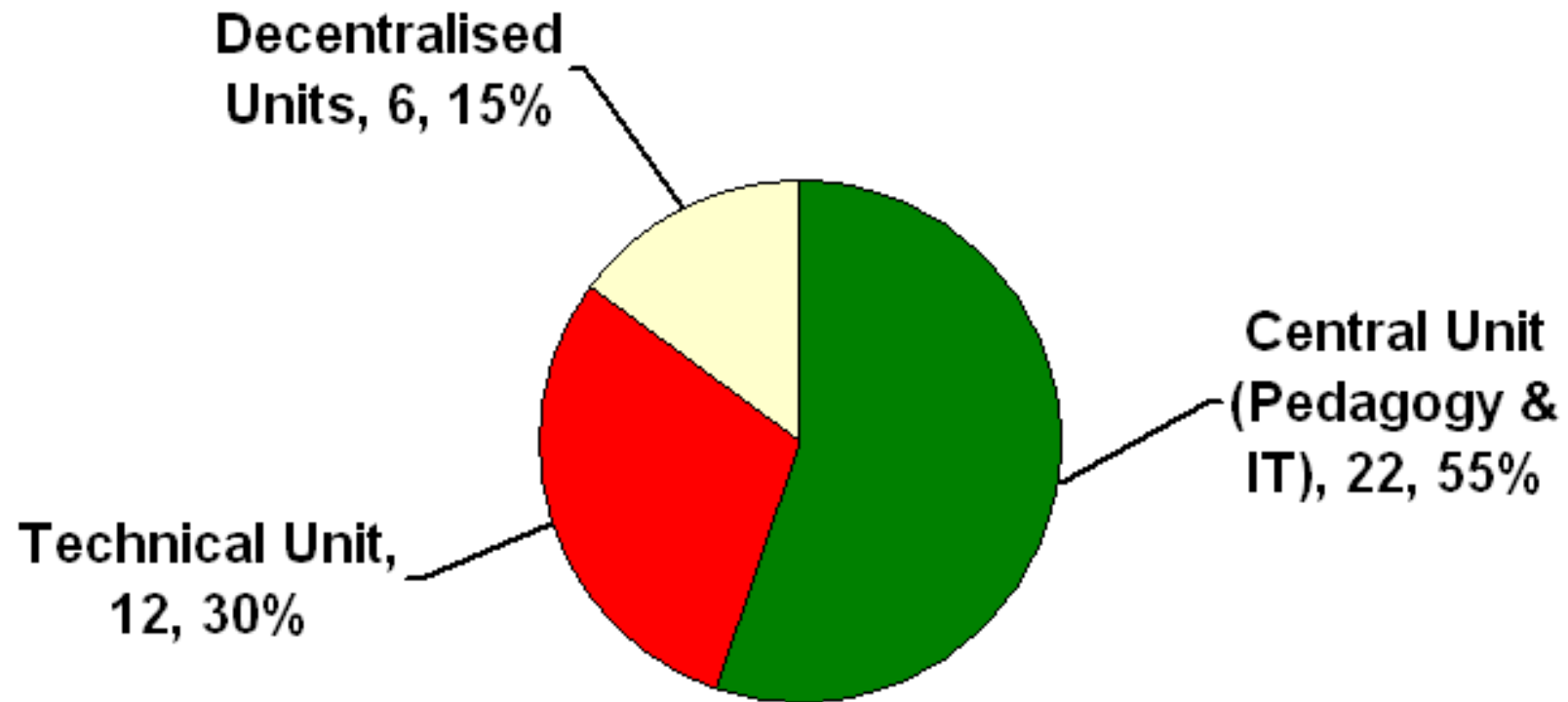2. To serve as a starting point for possible collaboration between universities.

E-Learning Snapshots Survey

- Based on Snapshots surveys administered in 2005 & 2006.

- Online - requiring open & closed form responses.

- 50 responses, from 40 universities across 24 different European countries.

- Between Nov-07 & Apr-08.

Organisation of E-learning

Decentralised Units, 6, 15%

Technical Unit, 12, 30%

Central Unit (Pedagogy & IT), 22, 55%

Organisation of E-Learning

- Maintenance & management of e-learning systems:

    - 50% both technical & pedagogical staff.

    - 50% only technical staff.

- Increased collaboration between pedagogical & technical staff.

Organisation of E-Learning

- Technical decisions taken at a central level.

- Pedagogical decisions taken at faculty & departmental levels.

Definition of E-learning

- Consistent understanding of e-learning.

- "e-learning as a learning and teaching process which is supported through the use of any aspect of information and communications technology (ICT) – this could be a stand-alone computer system."

- "e-learning as the specific use of Internet and web based resources."

E-learning Systems

- 50% have one institutional VLE supported by the IT department. Economies of scale.

- 50% have 2 or more major VLEs. More flexibility. Problematic in terms of tech support, integration with other university systems, learner experience.

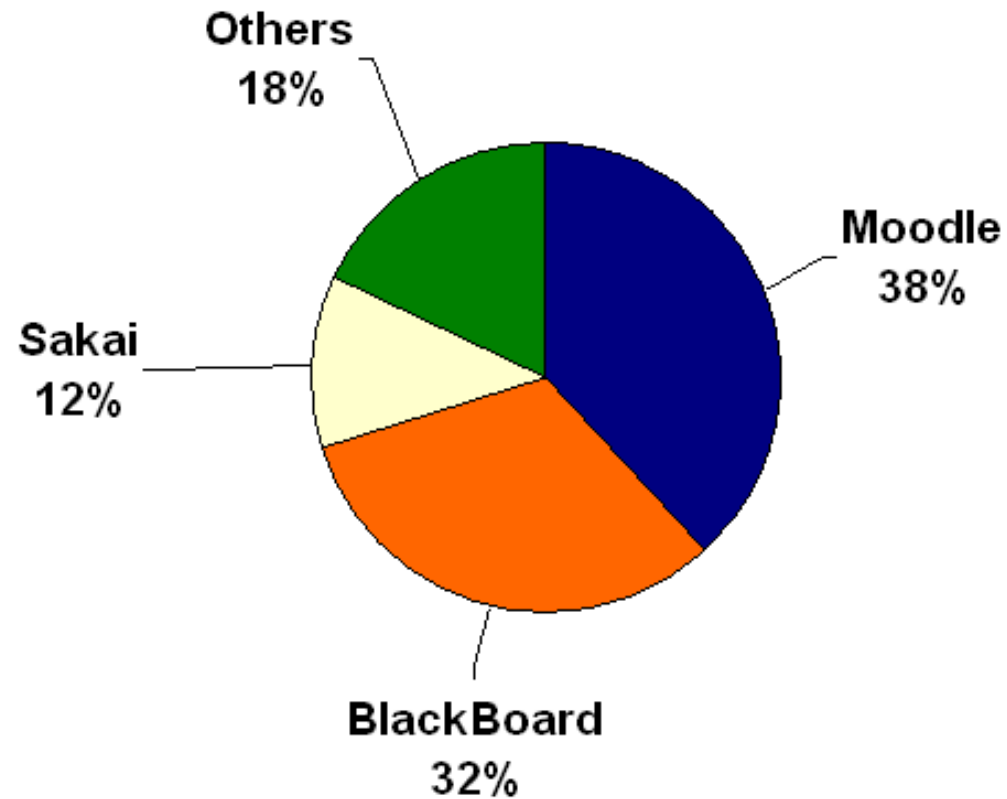- The trend is for universities to maintain & support a central VLE.

E-learning Systems

- Most universities use open source VLEs with the majority using Moodle.

- Others use commercial VLEs mostly Blackboard/WebCT.

- Some of the universities supporting commercial VLEs are also piloting open source systems.

- There is a growing trend for universities to move to open source e-learning systems.

Main VLE

Increase in use of open source VLEs.

VLEs…

- 49% use Moodle in some capacity, 38% use it as their main or joint main system.

- 36% use Blackboard/WebCT, with 32% using it as their main or joint main system.

- 12% use Sakai as their main VLE.

- 18% use one of these as their main VLE: Dokeos, Ilias, First Class, Sharepoint, Fronter etc.

Students

- E-learning is not yet fully integrated.

- 50% report that just over half of the student population is supported through e-learning.

- Slight increase compared to Snapshots 2006.

Use of E-Learning

- Spectrum ranging from:

  – Blended to fully online

  – Posting materials to highly collaborative interactivity

  – e-portfolios & e-assessment

- Growing trend towards blended learning.

Pedagogic Improvements

- Shift from passive towards active learning.

- "Teachers that are involved in e-learning tend to think more about pedagogy and restructure and innovate their courses. We have seen teachers developing many creative practices being implemented in e-learning."

- "Greater opportunities for students to participate in online discussions and staff considering how they might try different activities and approaches to further engage students using new technologies. Staff have been willing to share their experience via case studies and seminars, helping others to gain confidence in trying new methods."

Future Perspectives

- Trend towards more e-learning will continue in the future.

- A shift towards more use of Web 2.0 technologies i.e. systems for user-created content & social networking e.g. blogs, wikis, Facebook, YouTube.

- Use of virtual worlds (e.g. Second Life), gaming & simulations will increase.

Future Perspectives

- Increase in quality, variety & quantity of digital learning object repositories.

- Improved integration between VLEs & other university info. systems.

- E-learning will be ubiquitous:

"e-learning will be learning! the "e" will be absolutely normal!"

Thank You!