



**Open Stage project** - Media Tools: Virtual Campus IT utility.

*Abstract from the proceedings related to the Open Stage Project*

The CEERNT provides online Traineeship opportunities in the field of *European Politics and Programmes* for university students attending the last year of their university path, using the ICT communication tool and e-learning as the preferred way of training. The Open Stage Project is based on cooperation agreement between the CEERNT and 15 Italian universities. University students / our trainees could attend a Traineeship period *the open stage* by using our Virtual Campus IT utility as a support.

In that way, these young university students have the possibility to acquire competences to enter in the job market, to know how European politics and programmes work and experiment their abilities to plan and execute a project by gaining access to *training on the job* even if they live far from our office based in Brussels. Furthermore, the CEERNT gives them the chance to attend an in-office based Vocational Training for one week in order to strengthen their educational experience and to prove their capacities.

The Virtual Campus BE-IT utility is a private web site so only authorized members (e.g. our Trainees) can gain access to share information from anywhere in the world. As a matter of fact, the CEERNT believes in the efficiency of this IT tool based on the results obtained. In fact, the Virtual Campus BE-IT utility is an essential instrument allowing all Trainees to attend and actively participate in workshops, discussions on different topics, video conferences and classes based on the *EU Common Policies subjects*. In that way, they can easily share documents, files, news and opinions with their *tutor "on the job"*, participating in real-time conferencing, getting assignments on European affairs and programmes and discussing project works, learning how programmes work at European level and experimenting their planning abilities and at the same time the effectiveness of *an open traineeship in European Politics and Programmes*.

Finally we assume that this Media Tool is overall useful in the e-learning environment. Besides, based on the Trainees' positive feedbacks, we are convinced this Virtual Campus IT utility plays a Key role in all the training process which our Organization firstly launched on December 2005. Since that time we keep updating our private web site with all the useful information and all the interesting links to keep our Trainees being informed on the EU most important matters.

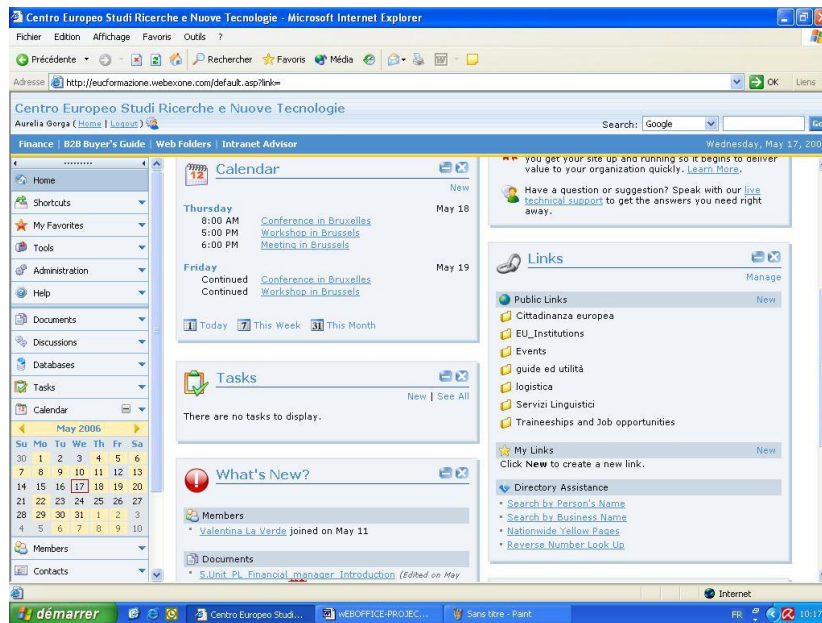
Up to now more than 150 university students coming from the last year of Faculties of Law and Economics basically have attended the "Open Stage Project" improving their experience in European programmes from

and acquiring instruments to better be included in the labour market. We truly believe that this first experiments based on a cooperation agreement among univesity could be extended to a wordwide larger number of universities within a Network and giving the open traineeship a recognition also in terms of credit which is inline with Lisbona Strategy.

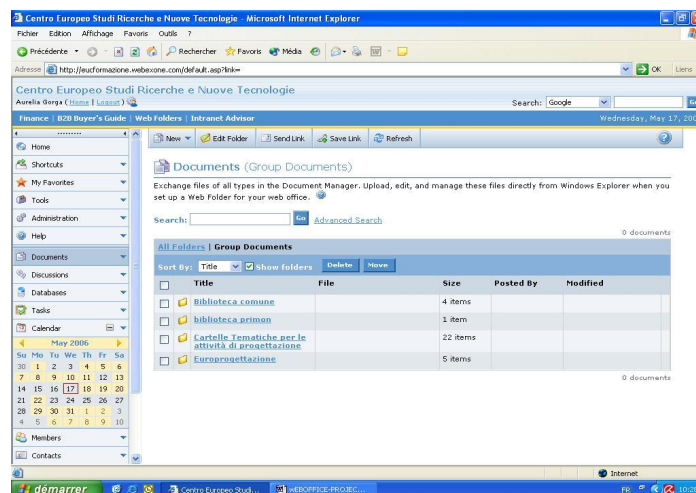
The following is a short explanation on how the Virtual campus IT utility works.

Getting started with the Virtual Campus IT utility is fast and easy thanks to its clear set up.

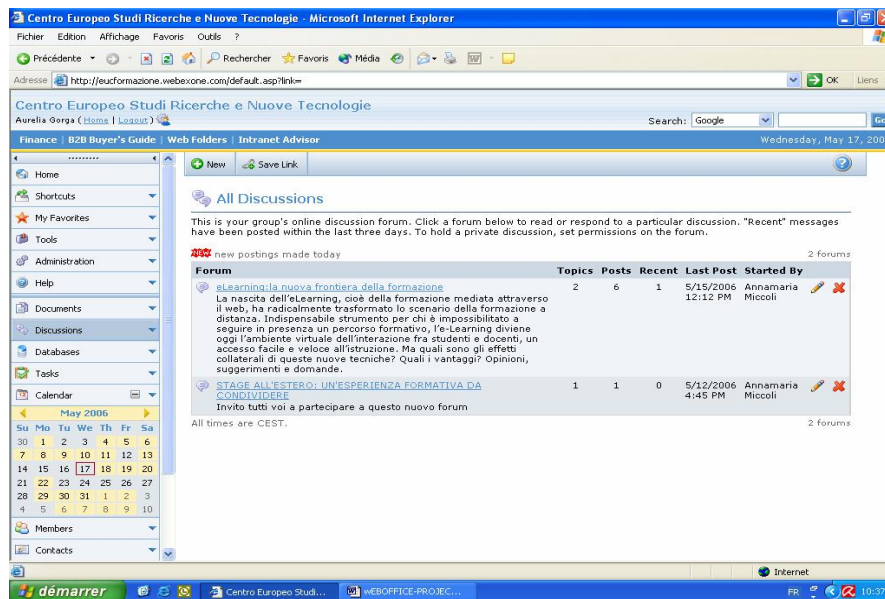
Here you can see the home page where you can find all principles tools ( e.g. the calendar, the links, the news...)



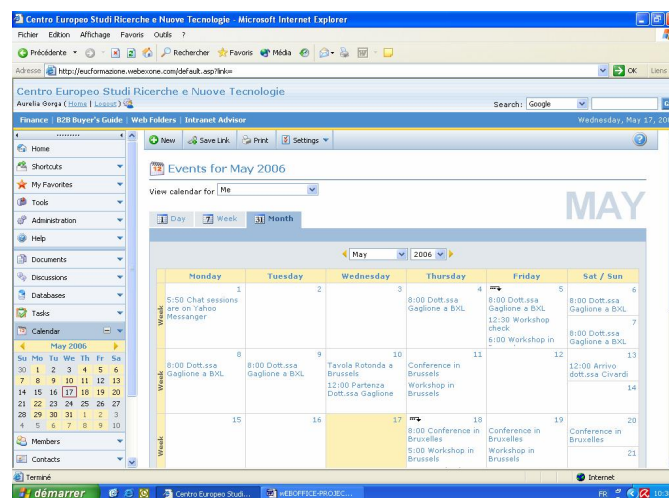
As you can see the Virtual Campus IT utility will be a valuable resource where you can easily store and share information, documents and more. When you open the Documents section the window will look like the following and you will be able to open the folders to look at a specific document, upload or post a new one:



An other important feature is the Forum section where you can invite Trainees to voice their opinions on a wide range of topics such as “The e-learning” or “The abroad training experiences” etc...



The Virtual Campus IT utility also has got a Calendar section where the tutors can schedule meetings and events regarding the EU Community subjects in order to keep Trainees updated about conferences and workshops, about events at European level or that they can attend in Brussels. As you can see below the Calendar is really easy to check:



Finally the Virtual Campus IT utility allow you to organise all the Trainees so you can easily contact them and invite them to attend on line classes or video conferences using all the Media tool our Organisation provides for all process involved the e-learning project. The tutors will also use all the “free open software and instruments” to better communicate with their “European” open classes.

The Open Stage project prefer tools enhancing the practical aspects of the job in order to better simulate an online traineeship, such as: discussion forum, real-time conferencing by means of chat, voting, whiteboard, application sharing, audio conferencing, video conferencing, online discussion group, assignments, simulation games, projects works, ect.



The following open campus should be adapted and integrated in the MEDA Virtual Open Traineeship