

### NEW EU PROJECT DEVELOPED ONLINE PLATFORM FOR TEACHERS AND TUTORS IN DISTANCE EDUCATION AND E-LEARNING SYSTEMS

Welcome to the CRITON Project Newsletter.

This edition comes with the Project underway for over a year. This means that whilst we still have lots of work to do in pursuit of the overall project aims to enhance the learning process in distance education and e-learning systems, lots of progress has been made already.

This newsletter will focus on those achievements and will also describe some of the plans for the next year. We hope that you will find it useful and we do encourage you to get in touch with any questions or comments you may have about what CRITON is doing.

Thanks for your interest in the CRITON project!

**The CRITON team**



*The CRITON team at a project meeting in Austria*



### CRITON PARTNERSHIP

- CTI "Diophantus" & Press, Greece - [www.cti.gr](http://www.cti.gr)
- Hellenic Open University, Greece - [www.eap.gr](http://www.eap.gr)
- die Berater® UnternehmensberatungsGmbH, Austria [www.dieberater.com](http://www.dieberater.com)
- Soros International House, Lithuania - [www.sih.lt](http://www.sih.lt)
- Noema-CMI, Finland - [www.noema.fi](http://www.noema.fi)
- Swedish TelePedagogic Knowledge Centre AB, Sweden - [www.pedagogic.com](http://www.pedagogic.com)
- Arbeit und Bildung e.V., Germany - [www.arbeit-und-bildung.de](http://www.arbeit-und-bildung.de)

## WHAT IS CRITON?

The CRITON ([www.criton.eu](http://www.criton.eu)) is a KA3 Transversal Multilateral Project with duration of two years (01/01/2013-31/12/2014).

CRITON aspires to have a positive impact on the learning progress of students from all educational levels engaged in distance education and e-learning. This is expected to be reached by predicting students' performance in distance and e-learning using educational data mining methods.

The primary goal of using data mining methods for CRITON project is to develop the CRITON platform ([www.criton-platform.eu](http://www.criton-platform.eu)) – a unique web-based dropout prediction tool to be used by teachers and tutors to identify students who are at risk of academic failure or dropping out of online courses, and provide effective and appropriate interventions to support them. The platform is addressed both to teachers and e-learners, but offers different functions to these two groups of users.

## PROJECT DEVELOPMENTS

The period since the beginning of the project has been a time full of activities. Partners conducted a survey and study for the different assessment methods used in e-learning environments throughout Europe.

**The specific needs of the partners regarding assessment** were recorded, using desk and field research, together with current assessment practices. This research was realized with the use of online questionnaires which were distributed in all partner countries in May-September 2013. In this period over 1200 questionnaires were collected in order to study the different methods used in e-learning environments around Europe. Apart from questionnaires, interviews with educators and LMS administrators were conducted. The results of this survey were used to define the most widely used assessment practices for CRITON's target group. According to these recommended assessment practices, a further study of factors that play a role in e-learners' dropout was carried out.

**Partners conducted a selection of real data** on e-learners of different educational levels, and after processing the dataset the most important indicators which play a role in the prediction have been identified. Based on these indicators a prototype CRITON platform was developed and ready for piloting.

**The partnership is now ready to take the next steps** of presenting the platform to all interested people involved in education in order to encourage them to participate in upcoming training and piloting activities.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Introductory Training** sessions for teachers and tutors who will participate in piloting implemented in April in all partner countries.

**Piloting** of the CRITON platform by selected teachers and tutors will take place in May-June 2014.

If you are interested in attending any of the listed events or you wish to find out more about the CRITON project, please send an e-mail to [christod@westgate.gr](mailto:christod@westgate.gr) or contact a CRITON representative in your country:

- Greece [mpoufard@westgate.gr](mailto:mpoufard@westgate.gr), [madspa@otenet.gr](mailto:madspa@otenet.gr)
- Austria [E.Koc@dieberater.com](mailto:E.Koc@dieberater.com)
- Lithuania [info@sih.lt](mailto:info@sih.lt)
- Finland [Anna-Kaarina.Morsky-Lindquist@noema.fi](mailto:Anna-Kaarina.Morsky-Lindquist@noema.fi)
- Sweden [kennet.lindquist@pedagogic.com](mailto:kennet.lindquist@pedagogic.com)
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