

forum where all nations meet as equals to negotiate agreements and debate policy. FAO is also a source of knowledge and information, and helps developing countries and countries in transition modernize and improve agriculture, forestry and fisheries practices, ensuring good nutrition and food security for all.

The Hunger Project is a global, non-profit, strategic organization committed to the end of world hunger. In Africa, South Asia and Latin America, THP seeks to end hunger and poverty by empowering people to lead lives of self-reliance, meet their own basic needs and build better futures for their children.

Any contribution to the solution of the world hunger problem is efficient. There are different ways in which everyone round the globe can help. All the above-mentioned organizations have their own web-sites where all the contemporary information about current campaigns is available. Moreover, it is possible to donate to the world hunger funds. Try to do something to help. Make a difference. And then we will feed the world.

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E-LEARNING: REVOLUTION IN EDUCATION?

Many people know what distance education or e-learning is, but there are few of them who see it in practice. Distance learning is a new, promising type of education. It emerged in the last third of the twentieth century due to new technological opportunities. E-learning can be available practically to everyone today. But are we ready for this “revolution”? Are we ready to take on crucial changes in the education system in Belarus?

Education is one of the main keys to economic development and improvements in human welfare. As global economic competition grows sharper, education becomes an important source of competitive advantage, closely linked to economic growth, and a way for countries to attract jobs and investments. All these factors have provoked great interest in information and communications technologies (ICT) to deliver education and professional training.

E-learning shows a great number of advantages, among which the following can be mentioned:

-Modularity. It allows forming a curriculum of a set of independent courses which meet individual or group requirements.

-Long-range action. The distance from the location of the student to the educational institution is not an obstacle to effective educational process.

-Coverage. Students have access to many sources of educational information and can communicate with each other and with teachers through the communication network.

- Flexibility. Flexibility makes distance learning distinctive. In traditional learning environments, you are required to fit your life around your course of study; with distance learning, your training fits around your life. Distance education gives you freedom to choose when and where you complete your degree. With the flexibility of distance education learning and research tools, you can study in your own way, at your own time. For those looking to change jobs or improve their skills while balancing other commitments, e-learning saves two important things – time and money.

There are three crucial elements that influence the development of distance education. They are: students, teachers and equipment.

Nowadays many people have to combine getting education and work. Others don't have the opportunity to study at university they are interested in because they live in another city. And there are disabled people that can't study at university because of their health. E-learning is the only possibility for them to get a higher education.

Teachers play a great role in the process of e-learning development. They are interested in it and are ready to learn to work with innovative educational technologies.

It is difficult to imagine distance education without strong material and technological base. Government should provide universities with all necessary equipment to expand this type of education.

The Project of Belarusian informational society development strategy for 2011-2015 assumes that in 2015, every higher education institution will have broadband access to the Internet. The project of strategy foresees an increase of broadband Internet access ports by 3 millions (about 530.000 today) by 2015. There will be 7 million users of mobile Internet access (compare to about 1,6 million today).

The first e-learning program was used by The Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radio electronics (BSUIR). It was one of the country's first institutions to receive a license for distant learning from the Belarusian Ministry of Education.

Opinions differ. Some people don't believe that Belarus is ready for such changes, others are sure that we are able to be among the first and the best.

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PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN UNIVERSITIES AND BUSINESSES AS A LABOUR MARKET STABILIZER

Nowadays labour market is in high need of well-qualified employees. Different measures must be provided to satisfy this demand. One way to improve the education quality of young specialists is to provide them with grants.

Grants are gifts that you do not need to repay. There are several different types of grants available to students in foreign countries (Estonia, Germany, the Russian Federation). Students may receive grants from the government or through private sources of funding. Usually government grants are given to students in need, but also grants can be given to those, who have achieved great results in academic research.

On the one hand, students receive money to pay for their education or invest it in scientific research. The possibility of obtaining such grant stimulates students to work harder and improve the level of knowledge.

On the other hand, companies sponsoring grants to students ensure a sufficient supply of well-qualified future applicants in their area. Each grant provider typically sets special requirements according to their own specifications. They may include