

# Distance learning as a tool

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## Introduction

- Distance learning in the European Patent Academy
- Distance learning as an end
- Distance learning as a means to an end
- Considerations: fit for purpose
- Examples

## Mandate

- The mandate of the Academy states:

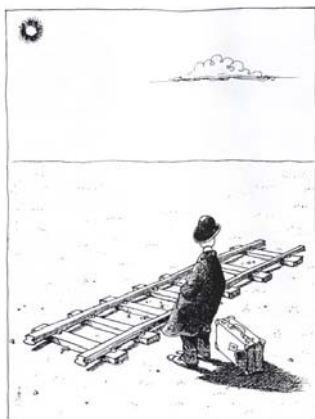
### Article 5

#### Means

- (1) The Academy shall pursue its objectives by:
  - (a) organising courses, conferences, seminars, workshops and symposia, issuing publications and providing a platform for the exchange of expertise and a forum for discussion;
  - (b) developing education and training courses based on distance and e-learning technologies, dedicated training tools, material and publications;
  - (c) developing quality and reference standards for equal access in all present and future member states to harmonised training opportunities;
  - (d) setting up a European web-based platform for online patent-related intellectual property training, information and documentation, including a virtual library and an intellectual property training database;

## Distance learning as an end

- The problem may arise when it is seen as an end in itself



A distance learning may be beautifully designed, story-telling, entertaining

**but,**

if no goals are sought and attained, it may be useless.



## Distance learning as a tool

- As a learning tool, distance learning is successful only if the goals are attained.
- To consider:
  - target audience
  - learning objective
  - environment
  - level of knowledge

Distance learning approach must be fit for purpose



## A means to an end

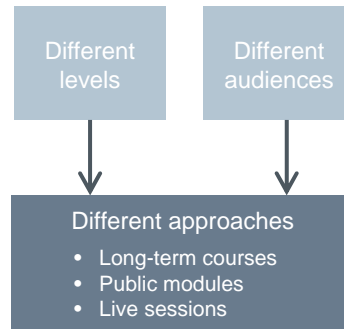
- Questions to be addressed:
  - Sufficient information about goals and target?
  - Are we flexible enough?
  - Are needs homogeneous?



## Development of products

The Academy develops **different types of products** for different goals.

- Single **modules** at the disposal of the public.
- Full **courses** on demand (including training materials and delivery).
- Virtual Classrooms for particular points e.g. new implementing regulations.
- **Podcasts** as summary of events or short trainings.



## Development of products

Type of product	Example	Co-ordination
e-learning courses (High-value vs. side products)	Pre-Class, Written Opinions, PATLIB Centers IP5	e-learning platform (Learning Management System, LMS) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-ordination of web-based training activities: LMS brings all e-learning products in one place</li> <li>• LMS automates training activities (such as on-line courses, feedbacks)</li> <li>• LMS provides reports about test/feedback results, usage figures, etc.</li> </ul>
Virtual Classroom Lectures	During courses; EpoqueNet; Patent Information updates	
Webcasts and Podcasts	Search Matters webcasting, Audiocasts bimonthly	
Seminars packaging	SM2011, Case Law	
EQE Related	EQE on-line Oral Proceedings	

**e-learning products:**

**Courses** are set on the LMS and consist of series of modules, tests and live or presence sessions as re-capitulation.

**Modules** are available from the open-access section of the LMS.

**Live events** include public virtual classrooms and webcasting

**Products**

- Courses: context

The screenshot shows a course interface with a left-hand navigation menu and a main content area. The navigation menu includes items like 'Introduction', 'Understanding your search results', and 'Interpreting search results'. The main content area has a heading 'PATLBI: Reading and interpreting the results' and a sub-heading 'The search results are in!'. Below this is an illustration of a man looking overwhelmed by a large stack of papers. The interface also includes a 'Credits' section and a 'Disclaimer' link.

## Products

- Courses: contents

Structure

External links

Important remark

Pop-up

## Products

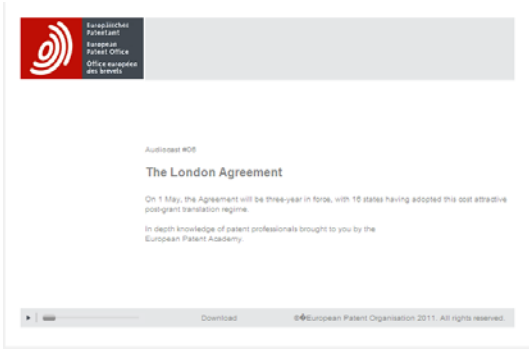
- External modules

Structure

Detailed example

**Products**

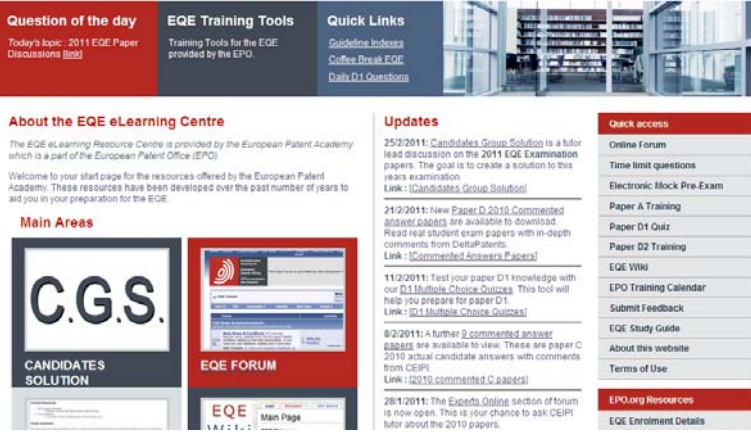
- Podcasts: short, news, interviews; downloadable in mp3 format



The screenshot shows a podcast player interface. At the top left is the EPO logo and text: 'EPOcast: Podcasts from the European Patent Office'. The main title is 'The London Agreement'. Below the title, it says 'On 1 May, the Agreement will be three-year in force, with 18 states having adopted this cost attractive postgrant translation regime. In depth knowledge of patent professionals brought to you by the European Patent Academy.' At the bottom, there is a 'Download' button and a copyright notice: '© European Patent Organisation 2011. All rights reserved.'

**EQE on-line**

- Targeting the EQE candidates: Forum, exercises and information



The screenshot displays a webpage for EQE on-line resources. It features several sections:
 

- Question of the day:** Today's topic: 2011 EQE Paper Discussions [link]
- EQE Training Tools:** Training Tools for the EQE provided by the EPO.
- Quick Links:** Guidelines Index, Coffee Break EQE, Daily D1 Questions.
- About the EQE eLearning Centre:** The EQE eLearning Resource Centre is provided by the European Patent Academy which is a part of the European Patent Office (EPO). Welcome to your start page for the resources offered by the European Patent Academy. These resources have been developed over the past number of years to aid you in your preparation for the EQE.
- Main Areas:** Includes 'C.G.S. CANDIDATES SOLUTION' and 'EQE FORUM'.
- Updates:**
  - 25/2/2011: Candidates Group Solution is a tutor lead discussion on the 2011 EQE Examination papers. The goal is to create a solution to this year's examination. Link: [Candidates Group Solution]
  - 24/2/2011: New Paper D 2010 Commented answers papers are available to download. Read real student exam papers with in-depth comments from DeltaPatents. Link: [Commented Answers Papers]
  - 11/2/2011: Test your paper D1 knowledge with our D1 Multiple Choice Quizzes. This tool will help you prepare for paper D1. Link: [D1 Multiple Choice Quizzes]
  - 8/2/2011: A further 3 commented answer papers are available to view. These are paper C 2010 actual candidate answers with comments from CEPI. Link: [2010 commented C papers]
  - 28/1/2011: The Experts Online section of forum is now open. This is your chance to ask CEPI tutor about the 2010 papers.
- Quick access:**
  - Online Forum
  - Time limit questions
  - Electronic Mock Pre-Exam
  - Paper A Training
  - Paper D1 Quiz
  - Paper D2 Training
  - EQE Wiki
  - EPO Training Calendar
  - Submit Feedback
  - EQE Study Guide
  - About this website
  - Terms of Use
  - EPO.org Resources
  - EQE Enrolment Details



## Tools for distance learning

- Authoring tools:
  - Lectora
  - Captivate and Adobe Suite
  - Articulate/Quizmaker/Engage
- Platform
  - Migrating to an LMS Moodle platform in 2011.
- Goals:
  - Content independent of tools
  - Shareable platform



## Summary

- Distance learning is a tool, not an end in itself.
- When designing distance learning, one must consider:
  - learning goal
  - target audience
  - technical environment
  - starting level of knowledge
- Similar contents can be delivered in different formats.





## The European Patent Academy

European Patent Academy site  
<http://www.epo.org/academy.html>

European Patent Academy e-learning platform  
<http://www.epo.org/elearning>