



FREE
TECHNOLOGY
ACADEMY



Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme

FTA – the long introduction

Free Technology Academy

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Free Software (a.k.a. Open Source)

guarantees these four freedoms to the user:

- **use** for any purpose
- **study** and **adapt** to personal needs*
- **copy** and **share** with your neighbour
- **distribute** modified copies*

(*) access to the source code is a precondition for this

Starting Points

- The main factors that hold back the **adoption of Free Technologies** are lack of awareness and knowledge.
- There is a **growing need** for ICT specialists, managers and decision makers knowledgeable on these subjects.
- Study programmes on Free Technology are still scarce and mainly local.
- The Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC) runs a pioneering and successful **Master Programme on Free Software** since 2003.

Introduction

- The FTA is born to set up an **International Master Programme** inspired on the UOC's experience.
- Freedom and Cooperation:
 - **Distance Learning through a Virtual Campus:** 100% free technology.
 - All course materials are published as **free educational materials (OER)**.
 - All courses are about concepts and vendor-independent, **free technologies** (FS, OS).
 - Creation of an **international partnership** for recognition of courses and sharing of the FTA programme and network.

Who's behind it

Consortium partners:

- **Free Knowledge Institute** (FKI) - Netherlands
- **Universitat Oberta de Catalunya** (UOC) - Spain
- **Open Universiteit** (OUNL) - Netherlands
- **University of Agder** (UIA) - Norway

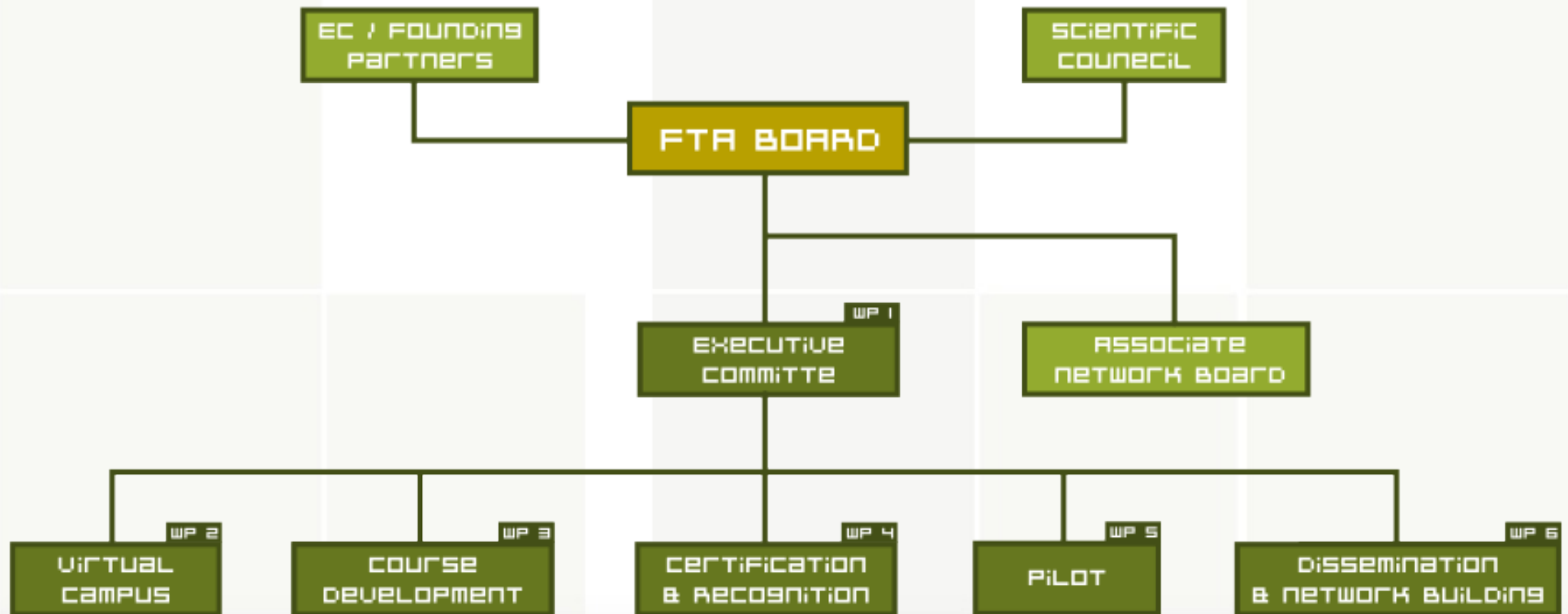
Associate Partners

- **Seed** - Switzerland

Supported by

- **European Commission** (EC) - Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP)

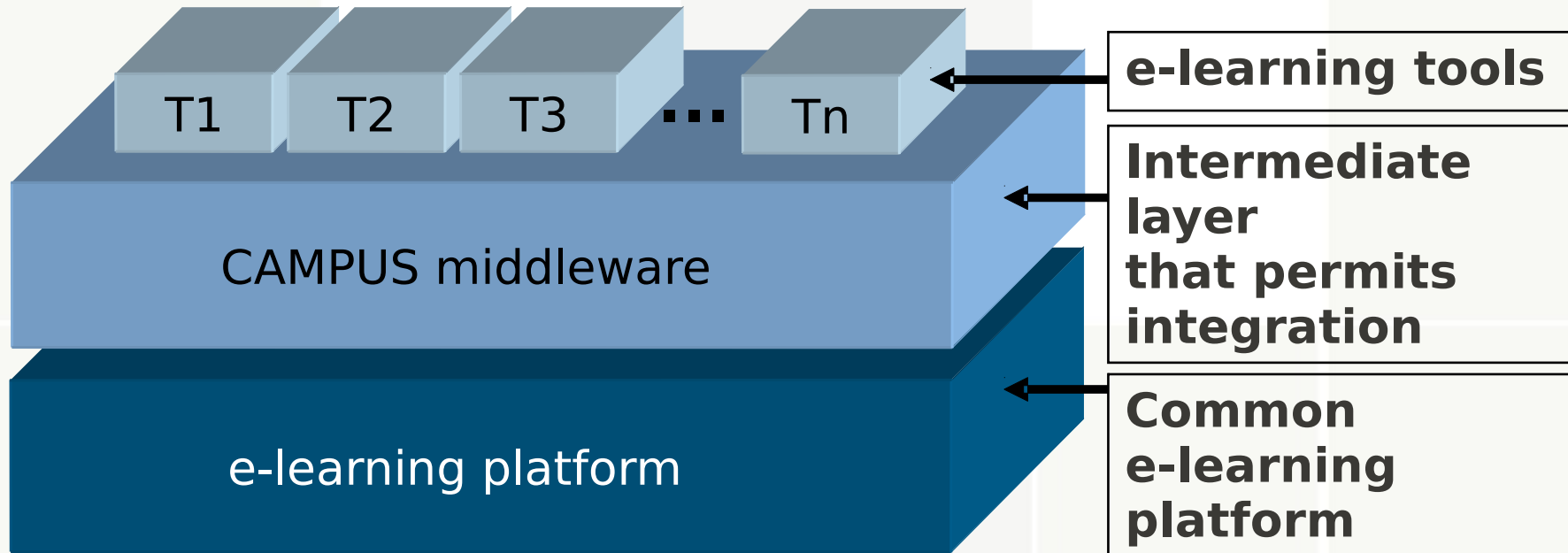
Organisation



About Virtual Campuses

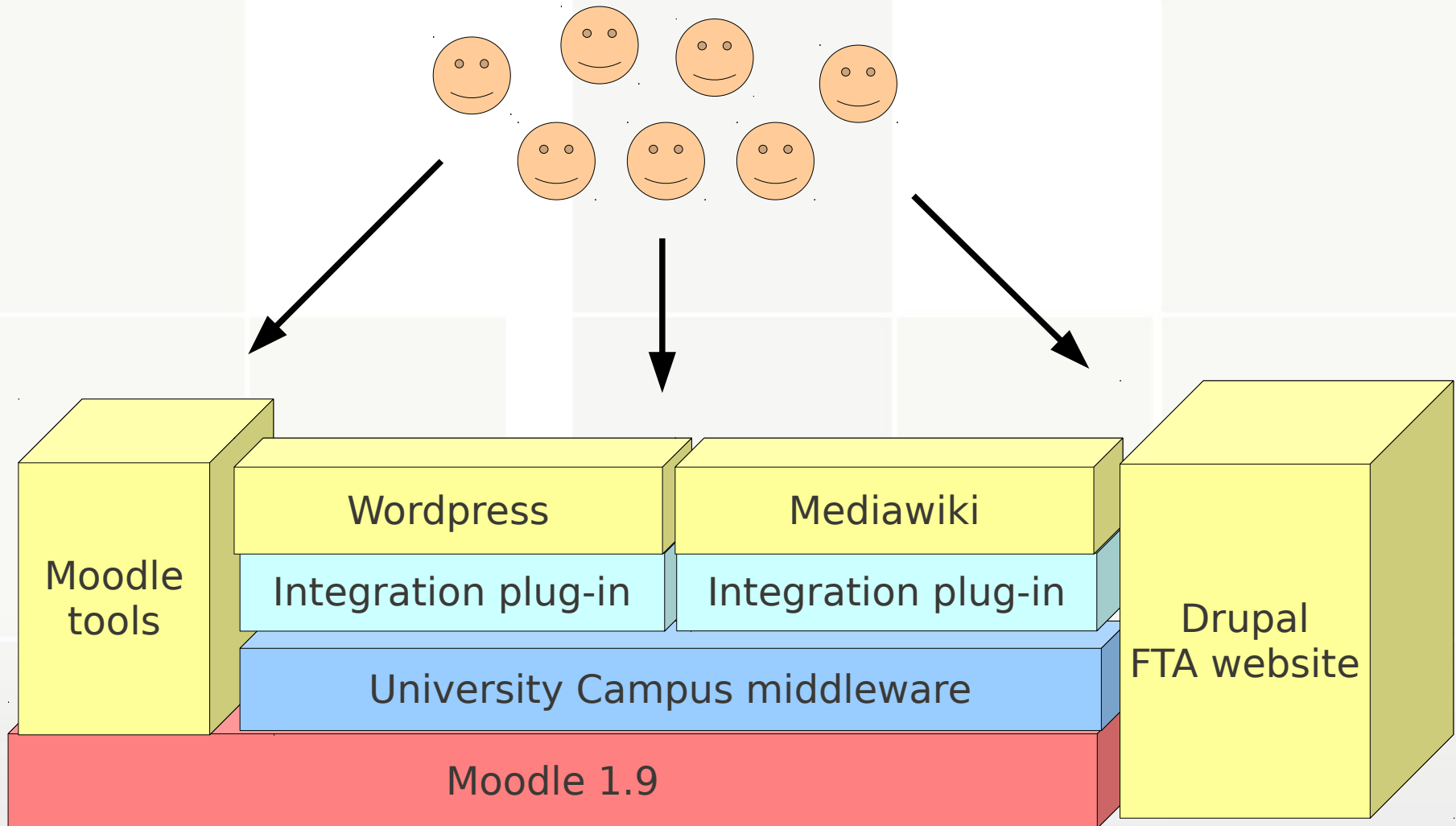
- Problems within the area of LMS and campuses:
 - many different online applications for education: tend to be **islands**
 - Applications change quickly;
 - Services architecture is emerging
- Solution: interoperability layer that allows for the seamless integration of desired apps and services

University Campus Project

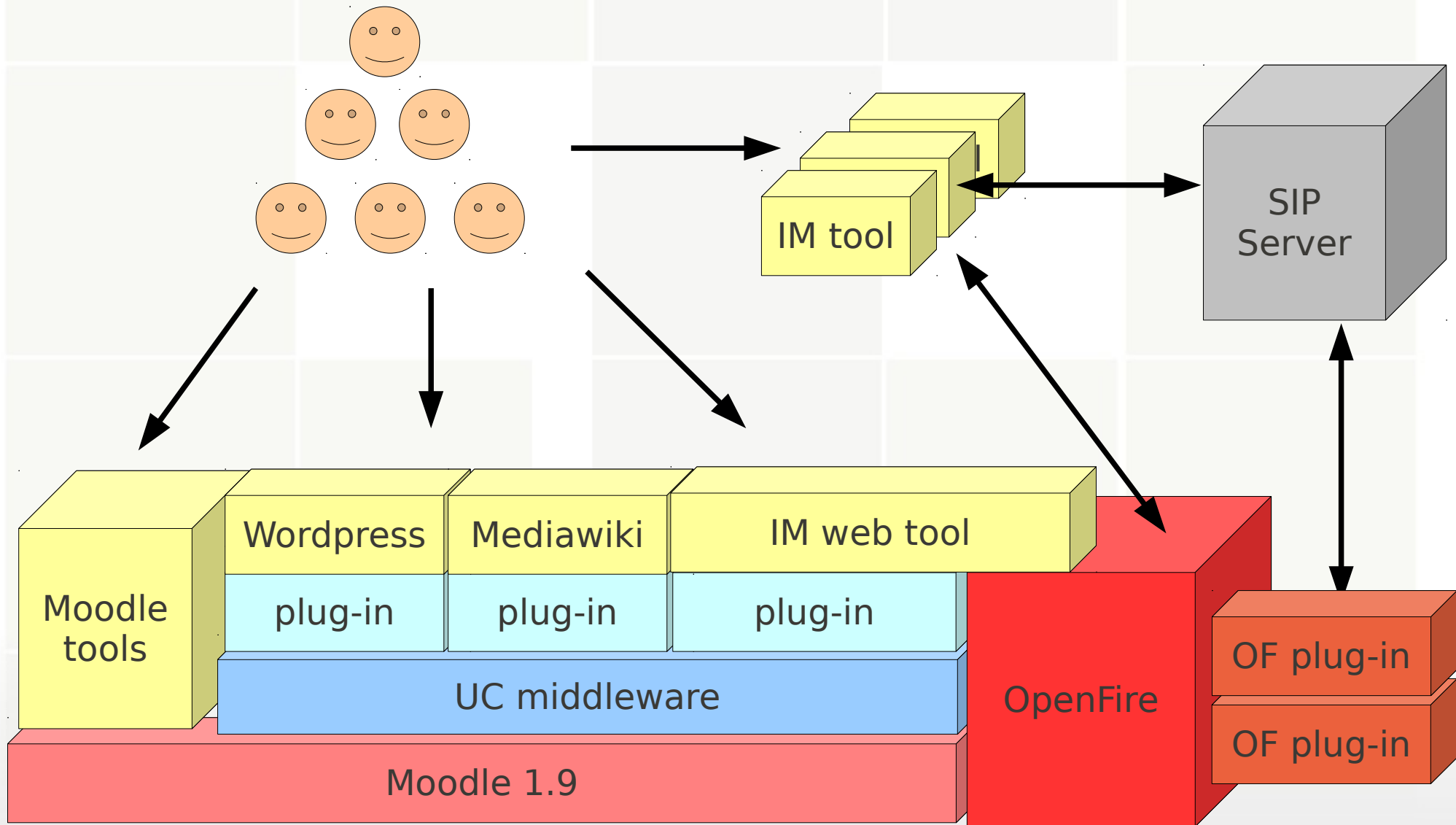


- Was initially developed by MIT and 8 Catalan Universities
- Partial funding (60% of 3 million € - approx.).
- September 2006 - December 2008
- Free Software under the General Public License (GPL)
- Development project site:<http://www.campusproject.org>

FTA Campus overview



OpenFire + SIP Solution



FTA Campus on shoulders of giants

- University Campus framework implemented
- Selection of applications:
 - Moodle
 - WordPress
 - MediaWiki
 - OpenFire (Jabber + SIP) (in progress)
- Main campus set up is implemented and tested
- Personalisation of templates
- Configuration and pedagogical choices
- Documentation for end-users (tutors, learners)
- Documentation for developers at <http://campusproject.org/>

FTA Campus Class Room



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You are logged in as FTA Admin (Logout)

FTA ► WebApps



Switch role to...



Turn editing on

People

Participants

Activities

- Assignments
- Feedback
- Forums
- Resources
- SCORMs/AICCs
- mediawikis

Search Forums

Advanced search

Administration

- Turn editing on
- Settings
- Assign roles
- Grades
- Groups
- Backup
- Restore
- Import
- Reset
- Reports
- Questions

Topic outline

General forums

- Announcements
- General discussion

Documents

- Course materials
- Course materials
- Study Guide

External tools

Classroom wiki

Course Evaluation

Evaluation Questionnaire

1

Modules 1 to 3 of the course materials

- Debates 1
- Materials and activities 1
- Assignment 1 - Instructions
- Assignment 1 - Upload

Latest News

Add a new topic...

28 Apr, 08:03

Janis Gailis

Welcome more...

Older topics ...

Upcoming Events

There are no upcoming events

Go to calendar...

New Event...

Recent Activity

Activity since Tuesday, 27 April

2010, 08:24 PM

[Full report of recent activity...](#)

New forum posts:

27 Apr, 21:10

Werner Huysmans

"Re: Introduction of the course participants"

Course Modules

Each course:

- Learning Outcomes and Competences defined and referenced to ACM and eCompetence frameworks
- Course book openly published and under a free license
- FTA certificate at the end; recognised by universities

The Learner

Typically:

- has a bachelor's degree
- has a job
- wants/needs to be knowledgeable about free technologies
- is generally an IT student, teacher, consultant, manager, coordinator, decisionmaker
- may want to obtain official credits (ECTS) for getting a Master's degree
- lives somewhere on the globe

Methodology

- Experienced tutor from one of the universities guides a group of learners through an intense study plan
- Duration: 12-13 weeks courses (5 ECTS)
- Participate in FTA Campus
- Work through course materials
- Online and Asynchronous
- Activities, exercises, projects, debates
- Guidance & feedback from tutors
- Sometimes experts are invited to present a **Guest Lecture** over video
- Evaluation based on performance
- Receive FTA certificate per course module

Example course book

- Title: Introduction to Free Software
- Authors: Jesús M. González-Barahona, Joaquín Seoane Pascual Gregorio Robles
- Coordinators: Jordi Mas Hernández David Megías Jiménez
- Licenses: GNU Free Documentation License, Creative Commons Attribute ShareAlike License
- 291 Pages; 3.2Mb



- Download: <http://ftacademy.org/materials/fsm/1#1>

Course Materials (1)

- These materials are published openly and under a free license:
 - **Module 1: The concepts of Free Software and Open Standards**
 - **Module 2: The GNU/Linux Operating System**
 - **Module 4: Web applications development**
 - **Module 5: Economic Aspects and Business Models**
 - **Module 7: Software development**
- **URL: <http://ftacademy.org/materials>**

Course Materials (2)

- Materials under development and translation:
 - **Module 3: Network Technologies**
 - *Update of Spanish and Catalan materials ready by December 2009; translation into English by July 2010.*
 - **Module 6: Legal Aspects of the Information Society**
 - *New materials are developed in English; ready by July 2010*
 - **Module 8: Case studies**
 - *Various case studies are available in different languages; a compilation will be made, with translations into English and the authoring of new ones.*

Study Programme 2010

V0.5		1 st Round Jan-april	2 nd Round April-July	3 rd Round Sept-Nov
Intro FS + OS	mod1	FKI		UIA
GNU/Linux	mod2	OUNL		
Network Technologies	mod3			OUNL
Web Apps	mod4		UIA	
Economical Aspects	mod5		FKI	
Legal Aspects	mod6			UOC
Software Dev	mod7		UOC	
Case Studies	mod8			t.b.d.

courses
 evaluation

Studie Programma 2011

Tentative programme 2011

	Materials Ready 2010	1 st Round Jan-April	2 nd Round April-July	3 rd Round Sept-Dec
Concepts FS + OS				
GNU/Linux Basic				
GNU/Linux Advanced Admin				
Free Software Utilities				
Network Technologies				
Web App Development				
Software Development				
Implementation				
Economic Aspects				
Legal Aspects				
Software Architecture				
Assessment of FS projects				
FS in Public Administrations				
SW Engineering in FS				

Registration & Tuition Fees

- Registration form at FTA website:
<http://ftacademy.eu/registration-form>
- Tuition fees and discounts 2010
 - *Normal registrations:* 380 Euro per 5 ECTS course module
 - *Early registrations:* 25% discount
- Tuition fees and discounts 2010
 - *Normal registrations:* 380 Euro per 5 ECTS course module
 - *Early registrations:* 10% discount

Joint Quality Assurance

- QA plan
 - Purposes: international credit transfer, recognition of academic level
 - Aspects: curriculum, course production, course delivery, course support, assessment
 - Stakeholders: experts (SC), students (course evaluations), course tutors (yearly cycle)
- Reports on evaluation of teaching quality are reviewed by QA team and discussed with Scientific Council

Economic Model

How does the FTA sustain itself?

- Start up with contribution from the **EC/LLP**
- Standing on the shoulders of giants: **partners**
- **Cooperation**: all software and materials are Free Knowledge and can be reused freely; individuals and organisations can and do contribute
- **Tuition fees**: learners pay a nominal fee per course module to pay for the costs of tuition, assessment and certification
- **Break-even** is expected for 2011-2012

What is the FTA Associate Network?

- a network of organisations that share a common interest in producing and/or offering certain courses in the area of Free Technology and Free Culture
- led by the Founding Partners with initial co-funding from the EC/LLP to set up the initial Academy
- a framework for developing further activities in the context of the FTA
- open for interested parties to join this effort and contribute in specific tasks or activities

<http://ftacademy.org/about/associate-network>

Conclusions

- Campus integrates successful apps for learning space
- Curriculum covers initially 8 modules (5 ECTS each)
- Study Programme 2010 runs above all expectations and is assessed for improvements
- Study Programme 2011 almost ready
- Recognition of FTA Certificates by UOC, OUNL, UIA
- Joint Quality Assurance
- Methodology for distance education, for IT teachers, students, coordinators and decision makers
- Economic sustainability through cooperation and tuition fees
- Partner Network for cooperation between organisations

- Presenter's name -
- Institution name -
- your@email.com -



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