

**FREE
TECHNOLOGY
ACADEMY**



Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme

- FTA Associate Network - An Introduction

- Wouter Tebbens -

- Free Knowledge Institute -

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FTA Objectives

- upgrade knowledge on Free Software and Open Standards of ICT professionals, students, teachers and decision makers;
- build a sustainable Free Technology Academy;
- build a network of partners to share the costs and benefits of education about Free Technology

What is the FTA Associate Network?

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

What does the Network offer?

- an vanguard international network
- an advanced virtual campus based on FS+OS
- a platform focused on education of Free Technology
 - to offer existing courses
 - to collaborate on the maintenance of existing or development of new course modules
 - to partner in the exploitation
- a network for the establishment of a complete curriculum in Free Software or related programmes

What does the FTA expect?

- a contribution to the network in the form of:
 - existing or new course materials,
 - contribute case studies
 - co-running of a new course module
 - staff (tutors, guest lecturers, ...)
 - other resources
- help with the dissemination in the partner's local network
- participation in working groups

Task force complete Master Programme

- With a group of universities we are working towards the development of a complete curriculum for a full Master Programme in Free Software
- This can serve both as an extension of the FTA programme as well as each partners course offering
- Mutual recognition of courses and credits and relation to existing competence frameworks
- Possibilities for co-development of materials
- Possibilities for local activities, exchanges etc
- Collaboration takes shape within the Associate Network

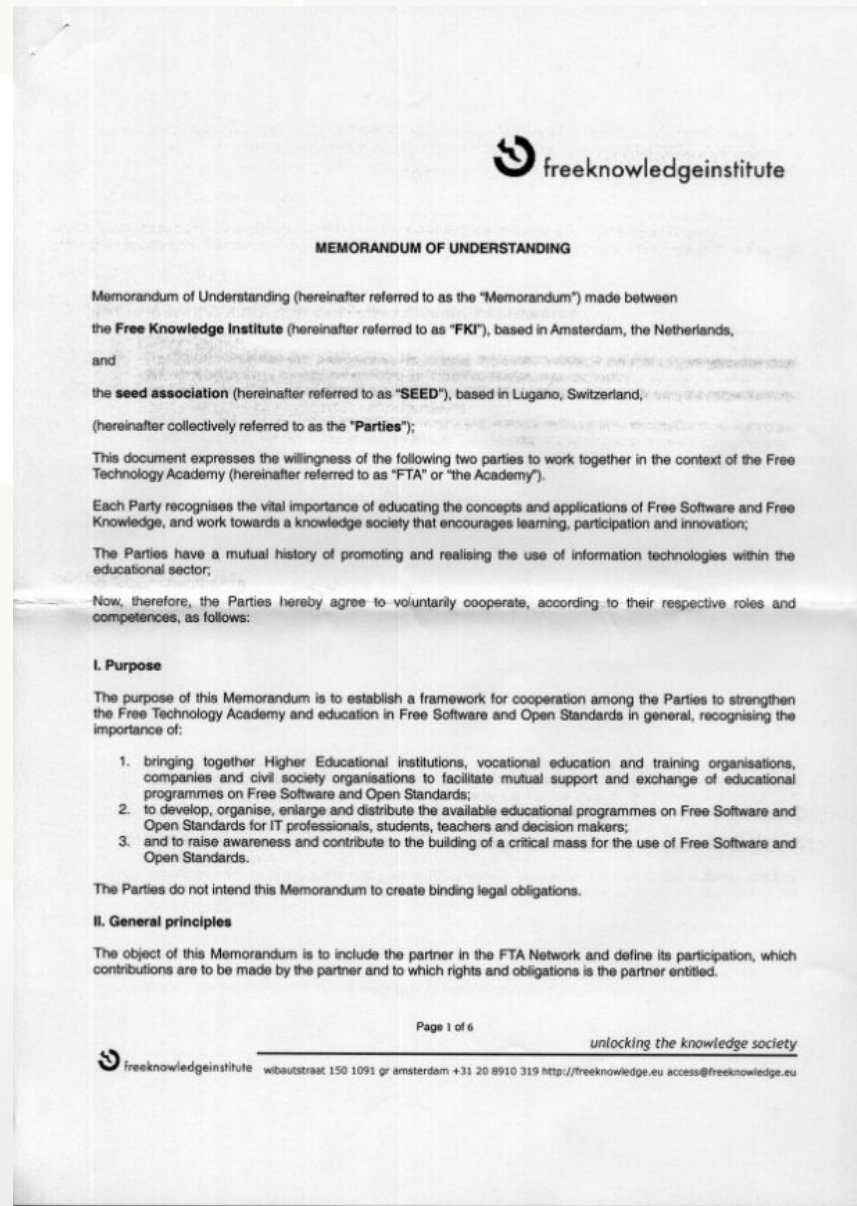
Localised FTA courses

- In other languages with local partners
- Relate to local context and economical aspects (global South) in conjunction with local networks
- Make scholarships available for talented and motivated learners
- Include tutors from the global South

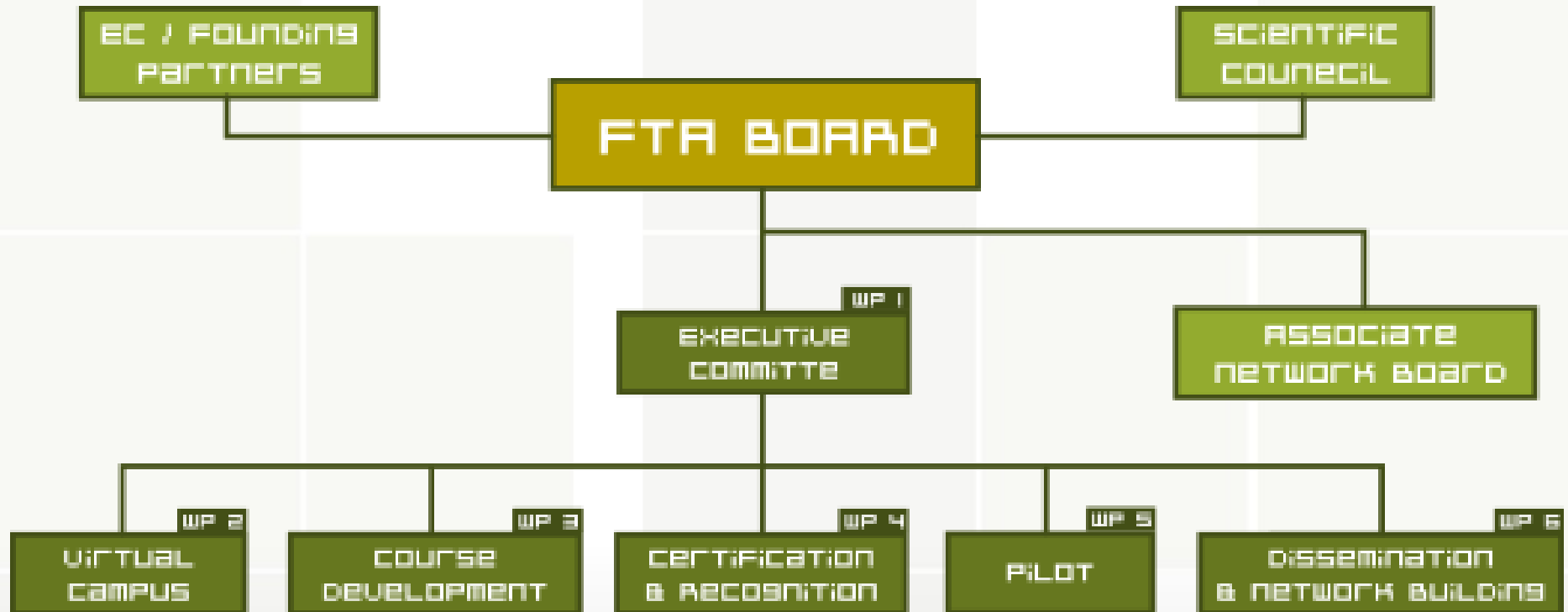
How is such partnership established

- Initial contact goes through one of the Consortium partners
- When interest is detected, discuss on possible contributions and activities
- A draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is prepared by the coordinator (FKI)
- The MoU is agreed upon by the Associate Partner and by the FTA Board
- The MoU will govern the partnership, but can be amended when deemed necessary by the parties

Sample MoU



FTA Organisational Structure



Categories of Partners (1)

Universities: departments

- Computer Science / Software Engineering
- System and Network Engineering
- Information Society: Law, Economy, Social Sciences (Information Sciences)
- Multimedia / New Media Studies
- Sciences of Education
- Library Technology, Knowledge / Info management

Universities: interested in

- Extending their curriculum
- Open Educational Resources
- Working with, or interested in a Virtual Campus
- international credit systems, recognition, joint progr.
- Virtual mobility

Categories of Partners (2)

Civil Society / NGO's:

- FS / OS
- Digital Civil Liberties
- A2K
- ICT4Dev
- Free Culture
- Open Educational Resources
- OpenAccess
- ...

Categories of Partners (3)

Governmental:

- Competence Centres FS / OS
- Regional and local government Info Society departments
- Incubator centres
- Unemployment agencies
- Development and Cooperation
- Open Innovation
- ...

Categories of Partners (4)

Educational Institutions:

- Primary, secondary schools
- Vocational Education and Training centres
- Societies/Associations of teachers
- Networks of schools
- Educational Infrastructure Providers

Categories of Partners (4)

Business:

- Service providers FS/OS
- Service platforms Free Culture
- Service platforms FS/OS
- Service platforms OER
- Innovative companies FS/OS

Roadshow

- Present the FTA at selected conferences and gatherings
- Focused on different target groups:
 - Gov
 - Biz
 - Teachers & Edu coordinators
 - Students
- Use FTA Ambassadors
- Prepare a common slideshow/presentation, flyers, ...

Conclusions

- The FTA has been conceived as a network of collaborating partners for mutual interest and increased social benefit
- In our view it is crucial to join forces with various interested parties to extend the network of the FTA
- Concrete openings for collaboration have been named:
 - Join the task force for establishing a complete Master Programme
 - Contribute with additional course modules in the areas of Free Software, Open Standards, Free Culture, Open Innovation, Development Studies, Information Society
 - Localise courses, offering for global South, scholarships
 - Communication in your network, conferences, roadshow
 - Contributions for hardware, guest lecturing, ...

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<http://ftacademy.org/>



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