



Track 3 Projects and cases: implementation and sustainability

Title of paper

Name of presenter(s)

Oral examination via web conferencing

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The Master in European Social Security is a one-year, international study programme in English at the Catholic University of Leuven. It blends regular with distance learning; students receive introductory courses in Leuven at the start of the academic year after which they study from their own campus or home supported by an (e-)coach. Assessment is also blended: open book exams take place online, written exams in a remote coordination center and oral exams at the end of the year, back in Leuven.

For this year's programme (2007-2008) however not all oral examinations could be organised face-to-face in Leuven; some of the enrolled students came from countries where there was no remote coordination centre while the oral defense of the paper at the end of the Master was made obligatory. A solution was found in the set up of oral examinations at a distance, supported by web conferencing. Our support unit, AVNet-KULeuven, guided the teaching team of the programme through the process of selecting the right tool, choosing a realistic scenario, and dealing with organisational issues.

In this session, we will present our approach and share our experiences with the online, oral examinations supported by web conferencing. Why did we opt for this technology? What possibilities does it offer? Which instructional scenario(s) did we elaborate? What was the organisational model we used? How did we guide teachers and students through the process? What were the challenges?