



AVATAR
newsletter



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**“Added Value of teaching in a virtual world”
Project Newsletter Issue # 6 – August 2011**

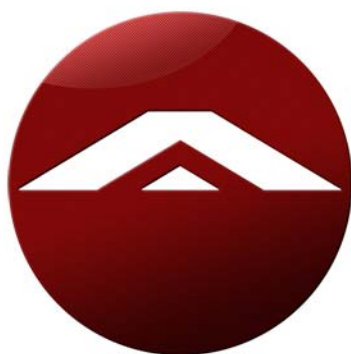
The AVATAR Project Team... has successfully concluded the **AVATAR Course “Teaching in a Virtual World”** delivered through the AVATAR E-Learning and V-learning environments in Second Life.

The course was piloted in-world with approximately 120 teachers from secondary schools from 6 EU countries: Austria, Bulgaria, Denmark, Great Britain, Italy and Spain.

The course spanned four months, and covered educational design of virtual world teaching, the management and construction of virtual objects and learning environments and examples of learning activities in virtual worlds. During the course, the teachers developed project work and use it directly in their classroom with their students. The project work incorporated a practical application of knowledge and skills gained during the course, with regards to the creation of a virtual-world learning environment and learning activities for a specific subject.



Participants were divided into groups based on their nationality with each group being assigned a separate set of national E-moderators to support the learning curve of multilingual and international groups.



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AVATAR Events...

AVATAR International Workshop

The AVATAR project is pleased to invite you to participate to the International Workshop on the "Added value of teaching in a virtual world" organized by the Burgas Free University (Burgas, Bulgaria) and co-funded by the European Commission (EACEA).

The workshop, chaired by Dr. Yanislav Zhelev, will offer a platform for the exchange of experiences and practices in the common field of interest. Please find included the programme of the day and the practical info on how to reach the venue.

Date: Tuesday **13th September 2011** - from 9.00 AM to 17.00 PM (GMT +2)

Venue: Burgas Free University - conference room 2 - 62 san Stefano str. - 8001 Burgas (Bulgaria)

Objective: To disseminate and exploit the final results and products of the AVATAR project and to exchange experiences and practices with other projects and experts working in similar areas.

Registration: The workshop is free of charge, but places are limited! Please, send your registration with name, position and affiliation to Yanislav Zhelev - yanislav@zhelev.com under the subject: "AVATAR Workshop Registration".

Target participants: The specific target participants are decision makers in the field of education, local/national/European authorities, secondary school teachers and managers, educators, researchers, IT personnel and general audience interested in the use of virtual worlds in education.

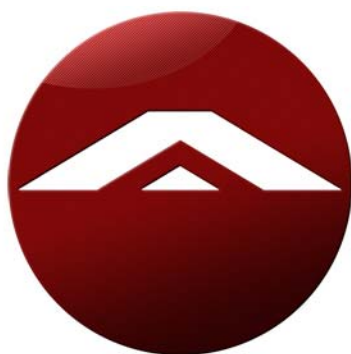
Programme: The programme is available on the project website www.avatarproject.eu.

Handouts of all sessions will be available from the AVATAR's website.

Participants can discuss workshop issues in the Facebook group of the AVATAR workshop

 <http://www.facebook.com/groups/157670140977321/>

Online participation: For the ones who may not physically attend, the workshop will be broadcasted in real time through the AVATAR's website.



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The next phase...

The AVATAR project will launch the final **AVATAR virtual event** that will take place in Second Life on **18th November 2011**. Interested speakers that are willing to share their experience in using virtual worlds in Education are invited to send their expression of interest to info@avatarproject.eu



to the AVATAR Website...

- ❖ Videos of the AVATAR International workshop
- ❖ AVATAR Newsletter Issue #7 – September 2011

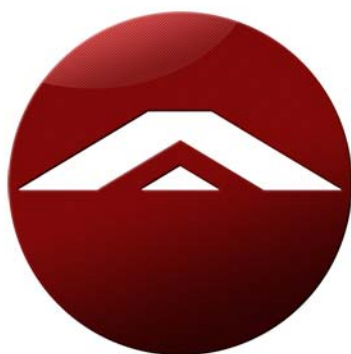
AVATAR Events...

Upcoming Conferences

The AVATAR project will be presented during the upcoming international conferences:

- ❖ SIEL Conference, 14-16 September 2011 in **Reggio Emilia, Italy**
- ❖ ICL Conference, 21-23 September 2011 in **Piešťany, Slovakia**
- ❖ EADTU Annual Conference, 3-4 November 2011, **Eskisehir, Turkey**
- ❖ GUIDE Conference, 18-19 November 2011, **Rome, Italy**

If you are anywhere near these locations, come and take part to the presentations and meet some of the AVATAR partners.



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Publications

Special issue of **eLearning Papers** n° 25 with the title "Game-Based Learning: new practices, new classrooms" is published. It features 9 articles reporting on research results and on-going projects in this area. AVATAR's contribution is in the section "From the field articles" and is titled "*AVATAR – The Course: Recommendations for Using 3D Virtual Environments for Teaching*" (Maja Pivec, Information Design, FH JOANNEUM. Cristina Stefanelli, Consorzio FOR.COM. Inger-Marie F. Christensen, University of Southern Denmark. Jutta Pauschenwein, ZML – Innovative Learning Scenarios) [http://www.elearningpapers.eu/en/elearning_papers]

The AVATAR publication from eLearning Papers has been re-published in the special issue of **TOJDE** – university online journal [<http://tojde.anadolu.edu.tr/>]

The AVATAR project has been presented during the **EDEN Annual Conference** in Dublin. The paper is titled: MASCITTI I., FEDELE F., DEGASPERI P., FEITURI M., STEFANELLI C. (2011), *Added value of teaching in a virtual world*. Proceedings of the EDEN Annual Conference "Learning and sustainability", Published by the European Distance and E-learning Network , 19-22 June 2011, Dublin, Ireland, [CD Rom]. ISBN 978-963-87914-6-7

The AVATAR project has been presented during the **ENMA Conference** in Bilbao. The paper is titled: MASCITTI I., FEDELE F., DEGASPERI P., FEITURI M., STEFANELLI C. (2011), *Training teachers to use virtual learning environments: the AVATAR Project*. Proceedings of the 2011 International Conference on Engineering and Mathematics, 23-24 June 2011, Bilbao, Spain, Published by Purple gate Publishing, pp 5-8. ISBN 978-84-937328-5-1

The AVATAR project has been presented during the **IADIS Conference** in Rome. The paper is titled: MASCITTI I., FEDELE F., DI MARCO D., FASCIANI M., STEFANELLI C., FEITURI M. (2011), *Learning perspective from the Metaverse: the AVATAR and the ST.ART projects*. Proceedings of the MCCSIS - Multi Conference on computer science and informational systems, e-Learning 2011, Published by IADIS - International Association for Development of the Information Society, 20-23 June 2011, Rome, Italy, Volume II, pp 187-191. ISBN 978-972-8939-38-0



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AVATAR Project Website

www.avatarproject.eu

Contact Us

info@avatarproject.eu

AVATAR Virtual Center in Second Life

[http://slurl.com/secondlife/AVATAR Project Island2/43/233/30](http://slurl.com/secondlife/AVATAR%20Project%20Island2/43/233/30)



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