Dear EDUCATE subscriber,

Welcome to the January 2011 Edition of EDUCATE News!

The year has started with an EDUCATE Management Meeting, which was held in Seville (Spain) at the Antiguo Convento de Calle Santiago (image right) from the 20th to the 22nd January, and which was hosted by the Seminario de Arquitectura y Medioambiente (SAMA) in collaboration with the Consejo Superior de Colegios de Arquitectos de España.

The Management Meeting was opened by a Technical Workshop where the EDUCATE project was presented to a public of some 50 professionals, academics and students of the Escuela Técnica Superior de Arquitectura de la Universidad de Sevilla.

The Workshop analysed the opportunities offered by EDUCATE for curriculum development and discussed the pedagogical and professional barriers and demands for the implementation of environmental sustainability in the education and practice of architecture in Spain.

Following the Workshop, EDUCATE partners, representatives of Chambers of Architects and invited members of the Advisory Board convened to discuss the advancements of the project to date. A particular focus was represented by the illustration of the activities undertaken within the creation and online uploading of the contents of the EDUCATE Knowledge Base.

The Knowledge Base, one of the fundamental constituents of the EDUCATE Portal on sustainable environmental design and energy efficiency, is a collaboratively-authored wiki constitutes by a vast body of Issues and Principles, Applications & Case Studies, and Tools. Its implementation in pedagogical activities at all levels of architectural education will be tested during the first semester of 2011 in the context of a pilot study that will involve all EDUCATE partners and selected members of the participating European Chambers of Architects.

Following the pilot study, the Knowledge Base will be made publicly available as a free online resource accessible from the EDUCATE website. The integration in educational activities of the Portal and its Knowledge Base will be encouraged via an international initiative (the ‘EDUCATE Prize’), that is anticipated to involve several academic and professional institutions at a European level. Further information will be provided in future editions of EDUCATE News!

The Management Meeting also focused on discussion and finalisation of the “Framework for Curriculum Development” (image right), a document intended to offer an underlying support in pedagogical development and facilitate the incorporation of sustainable environmental design in the education of architects. The “Framework” is primarily addressed to Heads of Schools and Departments, Course Directors and all those that deal with programme design, development and degrees’ accreditation, so as to contribute to the advancement of pedagogical provisions for architectural curricula at each level of academic and pre- and post-professional education.

The “Framework for Curriculum Development” will be published on the EDUCATE website in mid-February and will be freely downloadable from http://www.educate-sustainability.eu/downloads.php

For more information about EDUCATE, please see the project website: http://www.educate-sustainability.eu

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