Dear EDUCATE subscriber,

Welcome to the May 2011 Edition of EDUCATE News!

During the last month, academic institutions partners of EDUCATE have started to work on the evaluation of the Pilot Study carried out in the last academic term following the publication and implementation of the Framework for Curriculum Development available for download from http://www.educate-sustainability.eu/educate-framework.php

The Pilot Study has been arranged to ascertain the efficacy of the pedagogical developments informed at EDUCATE organisations regarding the integration of sustainable environmental design in architectural curricula in pre- and post-professional education. The activities carried out within the Pilot Study have included the setting up of new module syllabuses, the implementation of novel educational methods and the utilisation of innovative techniques and support tools, such as those offered by the EDUCATE Portal. A detailed description of the syllabuses developed for the Pilot Study, together with an analysis of the results obtained, will be available for download from the EDUCATE webpage over the next months.

With respect to the EDUCATE Portal, a customised online survey has been distributed to more than a thousand registered users across Europe – including experts, instructors, students and professionals – so as to orderly collect feedback on the utilisation and effectiveness of this interactive e-learning system developed by the project team. Amongst other objectives, the survey aims to ascertain the uptake of online learning tools in academic curricula and drive the further development of pedagogical programmes at EDUCATE partner organisations. A comprehensive analysis of the results obtained in the survey will be presented and discussed at the EDUCATE Management Meeting and Educational Workshop that will take place at the Technical University of Munich, Germany, at the end of June 2011.

At the Workshop in Munich, EDUCATE partners will also launch an international initiative that will involve academic institutions external to the Consortium, the EDUCATE Prize. The Prize is an international student award that will be open to all schools of architecture worldwide. The EDUCATE Prize winning proposals will be selected from the entries submitted under three categories, rewarding outstanding solutions of sustainable environmental design and innovative ideas concerning the implementation of sustainability in architecture.

The jury will be constituted by representatives of European Chambers of Architects and professionals internationally renowned for their contribution to sustainability in architectural design.

Registration to the EDUCATE Prize will provide users with privileged access to the Knowledge Base featured in the EDUCATE Portal. The winner and runner-ups of each of the categories in which the EDUCATE Prize is structured will receive a monetary prize (between 1,000 and 200 Euros) and their work will be published in the EDUCATE homepage. The award ceremony for the EDUCATE Prize will take place in Rome, Italy, at the beginning of 2012.

Further details on the categories, submission requirements and criteria for registration will be provided in the EDUCATE Prize homepage to be launched following the EDUCATE Workshop in Munich. This information will also be featured in the June edition of EDUCATE News!

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