Open access teaching & learning across Europe & Latin America through NECOBELAC topic maps

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NECOBELAC project involving European and Latin American research and academic institutes working in the field of public health and ICT

AIM: promotion of scientific writing and Open Access (OA) publishing of research output through a NETWORK of supporting institutions and people

HOW?

- T1: "train the trainers" courses
  - (involving local institutions and OA experts)
  - to create awareness on OA and develop local training.
- T2: local training activities
  - (cascade action performed by the attendants of the T1 courses)
  - to guarantee the project impact and sustainability

TOOLS

- TOPIC MAPS on OPEN ACCESS based on semantic web technologies
  - (innovative support for training across different socio-cultural and technological scenarios)
  - Reference grid
    - (short texts, schemes, links and points for discussion)
  - HELPFUL
    - in T1 to support discussions
    - in T2 to develop flexible, extensible and modular training programs at local level
  - Information & promotional material
    - (discussion list, newsletter, posters, videos, interviews, leaflets, guides for trainers, FAQs, etc.)

RESULTS

- 33 training initiatives in 2010-2011 (over 1,000 attendants)
- 13 planned activities in 2011-2012
- 15 countries involved
- 200 institutions in the network

CONCLUSIONS

- Direct involvement of institutions and individuals is a powerful tool to raise awareness on OA and promote a cultural change.
- Learning from different experiences in a large geographical area is an added value to focus on core issues, find alternative solutions and develop a shared strategy.
- The model can be applied in different contexts.