SHARING E-COURSES IN GI SCIENCE WITH EUROPEAN PARTNERS: EXPERIENCES WITH GEODATA VISUALIZATION

Connie A. Blok

ITC, Enschede, the Netherlands

blok@itc.nl

www.itc.nl

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR GEO-INFORMATION SCIENCE AND EARTH OBSERVATION

The eduGI project

- Distance education, sponsored by the European Commission

- February 2006 – July 2007

- Involved: 8 European GI Institutes in 7 countries

The eduGI project

www.edugi.net/eduGI

The common platform *(for 7 courses)*

http://novaelearning.unl.pt

ITC's involvement

Virtual Excursions

Geodata Visualization

Data Acquisition & Integration

GeoSpatial Data Mining

Uppsala

Enschede

Münster

Munich

Vienna

Szekesvehervar

Lisbon

Athens

ITC
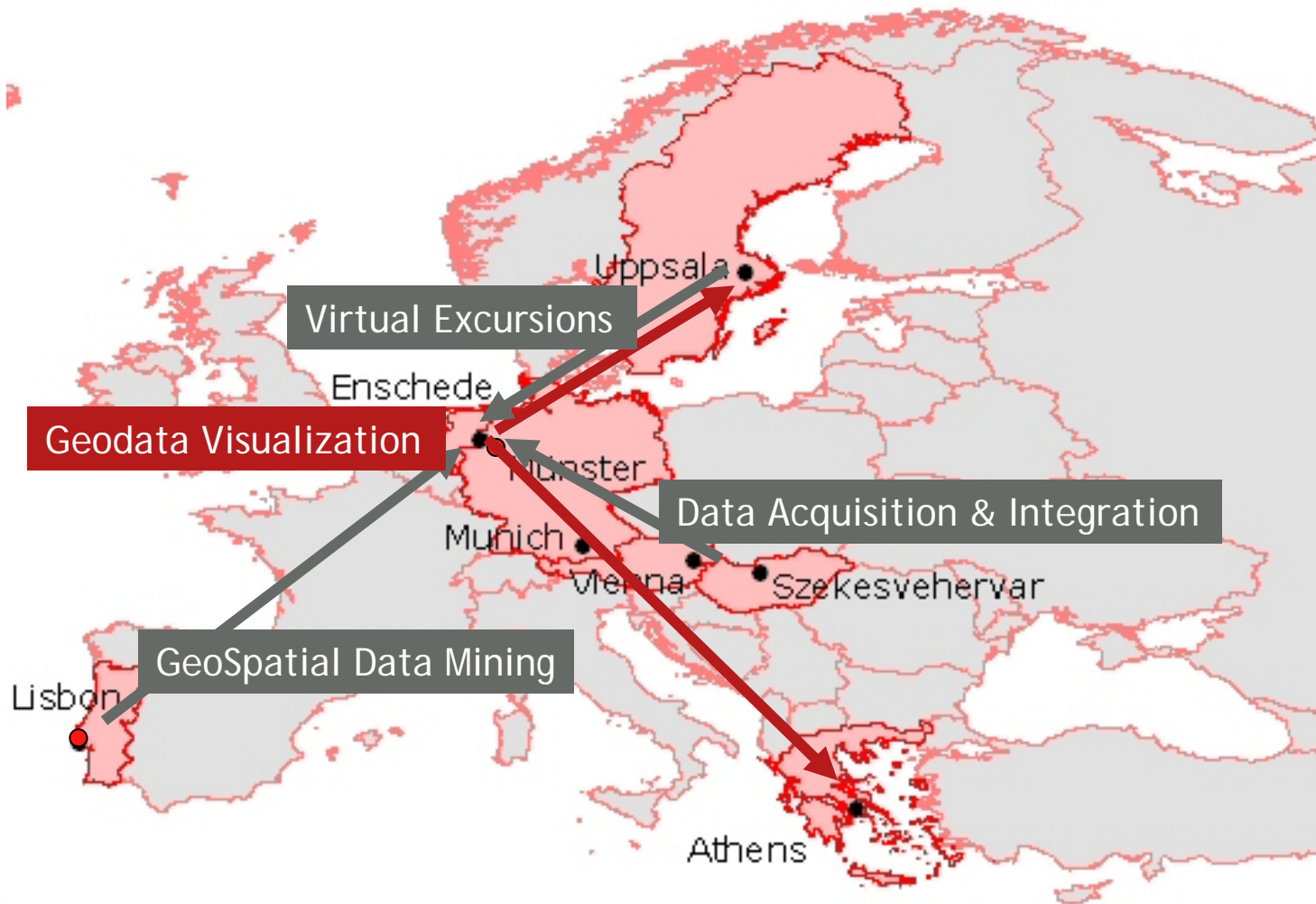
Key concepts

- Sharing resources
- One course per partner: core competence
- Access to international GI know-how
- Creates 'virtual mobility'
- Re-use of existing materials
- Organization model for future exploitation
- Outcomes to be used in- and outside the GI-community

The courses

Each course:

- M.Sc. level
- student load: 90 hrs = 3 ECTS
- 15 participants of each receiving Institute
- subdivision in parts and modules
- theory, practicals, assessments *(selftests, final exam)*
- contact (synchronous) sessions

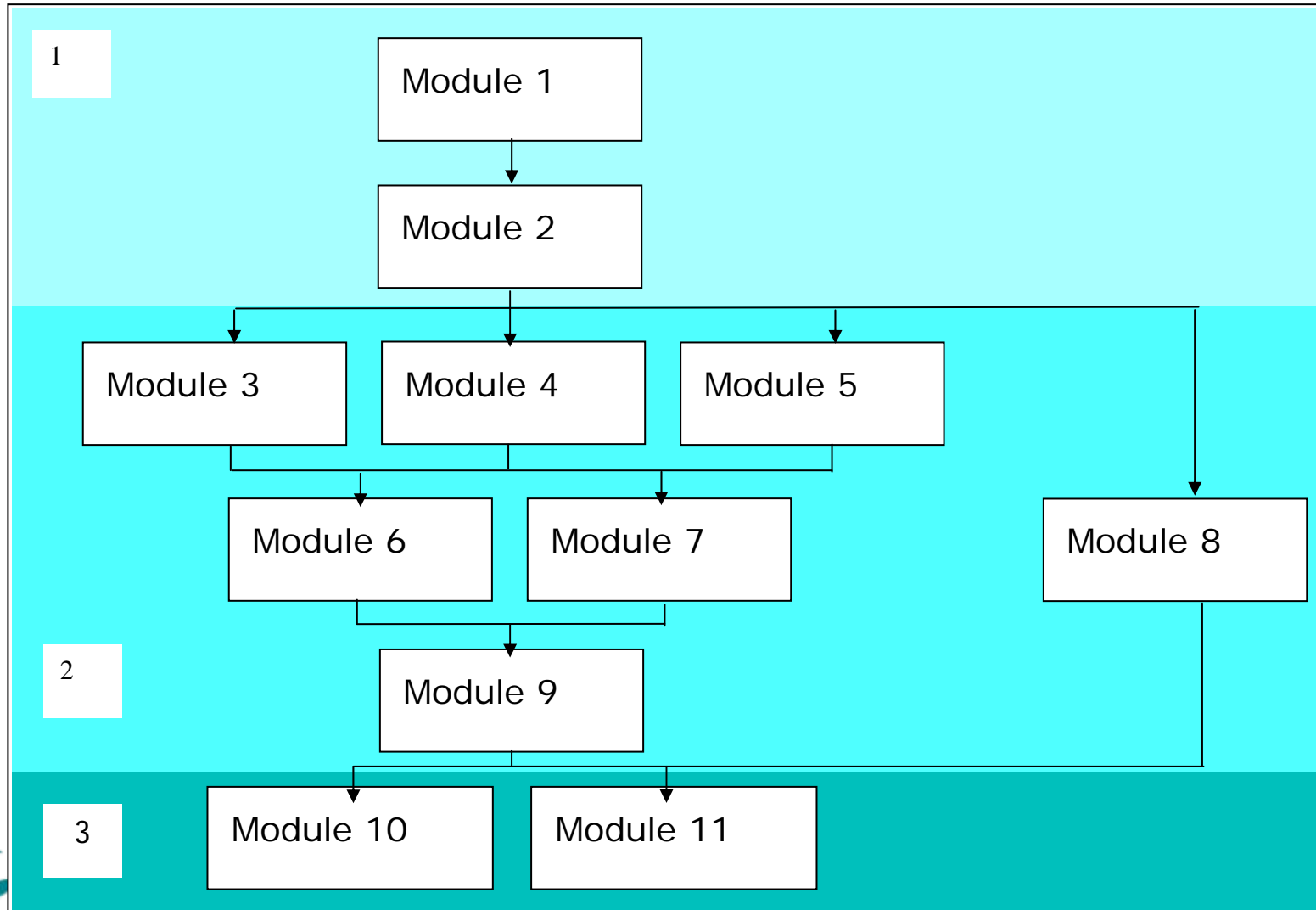- Evaluations: in received and own courses

Geodata Visualization Course

Main underlying ideas:

- Aim is to motivate students – active learning:

  - integration of theory and practice
  - all tasks lead to one final deliverable
  - team work
  - quick respons, feedback, use of Discussion Boards

- Contents as self-explanatory as possible

Structure *(study guide)*

Geodata Visualization Course

Course components:

- study guide *(detailed descriptions, learning instructions ...)*
- appendices: use of platform
- e-lectures
- tasks – in small teams
- synchronous sessions
- use of Discussion Boards
- self tests
- final exam

Learning activities *(example)*

- **View** the e-lecture of module 4

- **Read** in Kraak & Ormeling (2003):
  - Chapter 6: sections 6.1, 6.2, 6.3 up to 6.3.1,
  - Chapter 7: sections 7.2 *(up to nearest neighbour index, p. 113)*, 7.4.
  - *Optional:* Chapter 11, section 11.1.

- **Perform** task(s):
  - *Optional*: exercise: Representation Variables in ArcGIS,
  - task 4, and **submit** the task.

- **Attend** synchronous session Module 4-6.

Appendices:
Platform, Blackboard and Horzon Wimba

e-Lectures

Options ▾

Map definitions

- a **reduced** and **simplified representation** and **projection** of (parts of) the earth surface on a plane

- a **representation** or **abstraction** of **geographic reality;** a tool for representing geographic information in a way that is **visual, digital** or **tactile**

  - **visual**: a printed map or a map on a monitor
  - **digital**: stored geodata with all the information that is needed to represent these data in a map (*e.g. drawing codes, a legend, title, scale indication, etc.*)
  - **tactile**: a map meant for visually impaired users (to be read by touch)

http://www.tiresias.org/

ITC [edugi]

page navigation   supporting media   related page

e-Lectures and other support

Tasks

Synchronous sessions

Assessements

After the (pilot) courses

Each project partner:
- evaluation report
- workshop   -   local / national
- publication   -   national / regional level
- attends project meetings
- improves materials after the pilot

Project management:
- organizes project meeting
- reports to EC and other existing networks
- publication (common?) - international level
- maintains the project home page

Teaching materials: will be made available!

Experiences so far…

- No common view on DE
- communication between partners
- recruiting students
- lots of work
- many courses start (too) late
- platform administration / capabilities

- Building experience
- positive reactions students / one partner
- international contacts
- new input to our own GFM courses