Free Software – An Inspiration for Virtual Academy

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ABSTRACT

Most of the nowadays projects from the field of Virtual Academy are oriented more or less towards the mass education on the bachelor and master level. This paper tries to present a different complementary approach focused on individual education and collaboration of selected master and PhD students. The inspiration comes from the field of Free Software projects, the well established and successful phenomenon which could hardly exist without Internet, where groups of programmers scattered all around the world are developing software.

Free software project GNU GaMa for adjustment of geodetic networks, with input data described in XML, is given as an concrete example. Free Software (or Open Source) projects need not be necessarily limited only to software development but generally can cover any professional project based on free information exchange; a suggested example is a planned collection of model geodetic networks described in XML.

Probably it is due to our different background (our country is still in a specific transitional period) that we put more emphasis on our PhD students' programs and the idea of Virtual Academy is more attractive to as the field for building professional international contacts and collaboration. Our PhD students will be responsible for our future development — from them our academics are going to be recruited in the coming years.

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