Discussion on distance learning
Starting points for discussion on distance teaching (DT)

• Bologna process does not regulate DT
• DT is rather new teaching method and there is no long-lasting experiences
• Main differences between classic teaching methods and DT are the following:
  • less or no direct contact with the lecturer in DT;
  • availability of discussions is limited in DT;
  • DT lacks social contacts, social networking, human touch, cognitive approach, emotional intelligence & skills learning;
  • interactions among students and lecturers are limited in DT;
  • visual explanations are limited in DT;
  • limitations in teaching of the legal skills in DT – how to apply law & legal rules, how to structure certain answer or decision or judgment;
  • DT lacks practicing and exercising rhetoric; practicing skills of oral legal argumentation, ...

• there are different methods on DT, different applicability of technical resources, more or less advanced ... but it is questionable whether any of them can indeed overcome the short comings in comparison to direct teaching methods;
• in DT certain teaching courses are more suitable then others;
• DT offers advantages for students who lack time for regular studies;
• certain lecturers are more successful for DT than others;
• no general rule what is and what is not proper for DT;
• case by case assessment of what is appropriate is necessary
"The distance learning course I did was very much self-led, but the teachers all said that they would be available to answer questions from students by email or phone any time. I didn’t contact them myself so I can’t vouch for how responsive they were. But I did find the two weekends very helpful (and indeed essential) in shaping my understanding of the concepts. It doesn’t sound like much time, and of course it’s pretty intense, but if you’ve done (most of) the reading in advance and have some prior understanding of the issues, it is actually quite effective in consolidating understanding. I thought the set up worked pretty well for me, as a an antisocial hermit type – but I know other people are more into interaction with other human beings, so perhaps it doesn’t work for everyone."