

ABSTRACT

This doctoral thesis provides a comprehensive treatise of contemporary modern methods of education including e-learning. In its preface the author presents its content, purpose, basis and objectives and sets the main goal of the thesis, namely an intention to analyse and evaluate the latest trends in e-learning, modern forms of education and use of information technology in organisation of studies.

Sub-objectives of this dissertation relate to the structure of its prime objective and correspond with its individual chapters in which it presents the history of e-learning within the history of science and institutional education, evaluates the position of e-learning and other modern forms of education in the scope of political and legislative priorities of the European Union and of the Czech Republic and presents several core strategic and legislative documents covering this area also in connection with the concept of lifelong learning.

The key theoretical part of the thesis contains a detailed overview of main theoretical issues related to e-learning and other modern forms of education in contemporary local and international literature. This part describes e-learning as a part of the concept of lifelong learning, provides basic definitions of e-learning as well as an analysis of related terms, presents a concise history of e-learning and its forms and tools, sets out advantages and disadvantages of e-learning in comparison with full-time education and summarises practical aspects of e-learning in tuition process.

The following part of the dissertation presents strategies of several large internet corporations active in the field of education and their products associated with e-learning and other modern forms of education. This chapter is followed by a practical presentation of forms in which e-learning tools and other technological applications are used in the Czech Republic and worldwide.

The next part of this doctoral thesis covers the area of financial support of modern education incl. e-learning by European Union structural funds available in the current EU programming period and also contains an analysis of European Social Fund-financed operational programmes aimed at educational projects. Following chapter concentrates on

one particular e-learning educational project carried out by the Department of Adult Education and Personnel Management at the Faculty of Arts of the Charles University in Prague with the support of such an operational programme. The output of that project is evidenced by a summary and a graphic presentation of its key data and results supported by individual evaluation of the project by involved teachers and students.

The thesis' final part returns to e-learning within a wider context as a form of open learning utilising open educational sources whereby it presents a concept of open tuition using contemporary forms of support of such sources. The main factual section of the dissertation concludes with an article dealing with massive open online courses as one of the latest phenomena of modern education.

The ultimate chapter of this doctoral thesis presents a summary of researched area as well as an evaluation of fulfilment of its set goals.