



# OE e-bulletin

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## THE OPEN EDUCATION SYSTEM OF ANADOLU GETS E-XCELLENCE ASSOCIATES LABEL

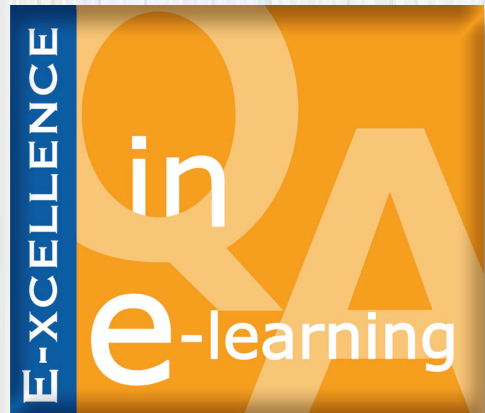
■ Res.Asst. Gözde YILMAZDOĞAN

■ The Faculties of Open Education, Economics, and Business Administration at Anadolu University are awarded the E-xcellence Quality Label (E-xcellence Associates in Quality). The process started with the onsite visit of an E-xcellence review team with members from the Open University (UK) and Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia (UNED, Spain) on 25-26 April 2016. The review team subsequently sent a final report on 5 August 2016. The report acknowledges that the Faculties of Open Education, Economics, and Business Administration make continuous improvements in open education and e-learning, have achieved quality control, and tracks new developments in the field.

E-xcellence Quality Label confirms that E-xcellence Associates focus on the improvement of accessibility, flexibility, interactiveness, and personalization. The label was awarded to fourteen universities in Europe, in addition to Anadolu University. The label is valid for three years. Prof. Dr. Yücel Güney, Vice Rector of Anadolu University and Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Open Education, highlighted that the process would continue with the accreditation of programs.



*Prof. Dr. Yücel Güney  
Vice Rector of Anadolu University and Deputy Dean of the  
Faculty of Open Education*



### ACCESS TO THE MEMORY OF OPEN EDUCATION

■ Res.Asst. Ece DOĞANTAN

■ Anadolu University Open Education System stands out with not only the delivery of education but also supplementary services. There are now preparations to ensure digital access to archives of the Open Education System. The archive comprises a wide range of items, including books, articles, theses, projects and television productions, collected since late 1970s.

Naming this archive as the 'Memory of Open Education', Asst. Prof. Dr. Murat Akyıldız (Vice Dean, Faculty of Open Education) said the following: "The Open Education System has produced a large number of written and unwritten materials since the end of 1970s. As these materials are revised and renewed, the older versions are archived and sent to the library. However, limited number of people make use of the library. Thus, we decided to bring together all these materials on a digital platform to ensure that all our students have easy access to them."



This platform will be accessible soon, offering systematic browsing options by course, subject matter, department/program, author, year, and type of material. In the first place, students and staff will have access to the archives, and endeavors will continue to ensure public access later.

■ Res.Asst. Hakan KILINÇ

### PROJECTS OF THE R&D DEPARTMENT FOR LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES (RDDLT)



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Köksal Büyük, Head of RDDLT

■ Assoc. Prof. Dr. Köksal Büyük, head of the RDDLT, underlined that, in addition to content production, presentation, management and development, extensive academic research has been carried out in the department. Dr. Büyük added that academic projects and studies are important for the present and future of open and distance learning. The department provides support to research teams. The projects are particularly funded by the Scientific Research Projects Committee of Anadolu University.

The scientific research projects currently undertaken by the RDDLT are as follows:

#### 1. Development and Testing of an Electronic Performance Support System for Open and Distance Learners

This project, conducted under the leadership of Asst. Prof. Dr. Nilgün Özdamar Keskin, aims to examine the factors that influence the use of an electronic performance system with open and distance learners. The system is developed for Fundamentals of Information Technologies course. All content in textbooks of Fundamentals of Information Technologies I and II was segmented in a way to answer the questions “Who”, “What”, “Where”, “When”, and “How”, and incorporated into a database to create a system named “AnaBilge”, consisting of the archive of Fundamentals of Information Technologies. Another software is developed to allow users to inquire requirements related to this course by keyboard or voice command. Learners will be able to reply audio-questions to test themselves and get feedback.

#### 2. Use of Social Media in Open and Distance Learning: Learning English via Facebook

This project, directed by Asst. Prof. Dr. Serpil Koçdar, aims to investigate the contribution to perceived learning and satisfaction of academic and social support provided via Facebook to English learning. English is one of the courses with high perceived difficulty in the Open Education System.

#### 3. Learners' Views on the Role of Gamification Elements Used in Web-Based Exercises in Ensuring Motivation

For the purpose of this project, directed by Asst. Prof. Dr. Nejdet Karadağ, a web-based exercise application (“SoruKüp” - “Question Cubes”) was developed. “Soru Küp” is an application that comprises multiple user competitions, level system, social interaction, feedback system, and chance factor. This project sets out to examine the role of gamification elements in keeping learners engaged and motivated, and find out learners' suggestions related to the improvement of this role. It is planned to improve the application on the basis of learners' viewpoints.

#### 4. Usability of Interactive Open and Distance Learning Materials with Regard to Human-Computer Interaction



This project, conducted under the leadership of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Köksal Büyük, aims to gather users' opinions on open and distance learning materials, which will be tested for usability in human-computer interaction. In this respect, a video studio and human-computer interaction laboratory will be established. Furthermore, open and distance learning materials, designed and produced for verbal and quantitative courses, will be available for learners. These materials will be evaluated on the basis of learners' opinions.

### 5. The Effects of Learner-Content Interaction Activities for Interactive e-Books on Verbal Learning Outcomes

This project, carried out under the leadership of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Alper Kumtepe, is designed to develop learning materials for a variety of interaction activities. The project aims to study which learner-content interaction activities help learners attain Gagne's learning outcomes, falling under the domain of verbal information.

### 6. A Study on Item Difficulty and Item Discrimination of Multiple-Choice Questions in Distance Education

This study, conducted under the direction of Asst. Prof. Dr. Serpil Koçdar, aims to determine whether item difficulty ( $p$ ) and item discrimination ( $r$ ) of multiple-choice questions – main measurement tools used

in learner assessment in the Open Education System of Anadolu University – vary by cognitive level and question types, and to gather learners' opinions on question types and cognitive level of questions.

### 7. A Cloud-Based Massive Eye Tracking System for the Design of Open and Distance Learning Materials

This project, carried out under the leadership of Asst. Prof. Dr. Nilgün Özdamar Keskin, aims to evaluate learners' performance and level of interest in their natural learning environment. For this purpose, selected students will be provided with an eye tracking device. Professional eye tracking devices, used in such analyses, are equipped with highly developed software and hence are costly. In this project, a cheaper eye-tracking system, not capable of making such analyses, will be procured, and software will be developed for the system. In this respect, the system will be a unique one that is able to conduct massive tracking of learners' engagement. The system to be developed in this project will be a point of reference for several research projects related to the usability of learning materials and design of new materials in the Faculty of Open Education.

### 8. A Study on Internal Quality Assurance Systems of Open and Distance Learning Institutions

This project, carried out under the leadership of Asst. Prof. Dr. Serpil Koçdar, aims to define the principles that play a guiding role in the development and implementation of internal quality assurance systems in open and distance learning institutions in the world and Turkey, and to develop a holistic internal quality assurance model for the Open and Distance Education System of Anadolu University. For the purpose of this project, onsite visits were made to Athabasca University, Open University of Catalonia, and Open University of Japan to observe their internal quality assurance systems.

### 9. Evaluating the Usability of Mobile Learning Applications by Eye-Tracking System

This project, carried out under the leadership of Asst. Prof. Dr. Nilgün Özdamar Keskin, aims to evaluate the usability of mobile learning applications developed by the Faculty of Open Education. Thus, usability principles will be developed with regard to interface design of mobile learning applications by determining what learners find significant and engaging and what they disregard in mobile application interfaces, the inefficient and ineffective areas in interfaces, the search methods and strategies used by learners, and the factors that influence user experience.

■ Res.Asst. Merve ÇELİK

■ A total of 12 new programs were launched in the Faculties of Open Education, Economics, and Business Administration in 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 academic years. Two of these programs will welcome their first students this academic year. The associate degree programs opened in the Faculty of Open Education in 2015-2016 academic year were Culinary Arts, Child Development, Geriatric Care, and Medical Documentation and Secretary Training, and the new undergraduate programs were Public Relations and Advertising, Healthcare Management, Social Work, and Management Information Systems. Two new associate degree programs were launched in the Faculty of Open Education in 2016-2017 academic year: Geographic Information Systems and Technologies, and Web Design and Coding. The programs in Civil Aviation Management and International Trade and Logistics Management were established in the Faculty of Business Administration 2015-2016 academic year.

The most significant characteristic of new programs is that they produce human resources for the service sector. The programs fall under four categories of subjects: information technologies,

health, transport, and media and communication. The main objective of programs is to improve the quality in the service sector. They are structured in a systematic way, and are mostly related to individual service provision. This will contribute to the enhancement of professionalism in the sector. Further information about programs is available at <https://www.anadolu.edu.tr/en/open-education/programs-in-turkey>.

## NEW PROGRAMS IN THE OPEN EDUCATION SYSTEM



*Associate Degree Program in Web Design and Coding*



*Associate Degree Program in Culinary Arts*



*Associate Degree Program in Geriatric Care*