

# **Learning Lab Geomatics**

## **– Virtual academy: reengineering university concepts**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Virtual Academy is a hot issue. It represents the challenge of implementing the new IT paradigm in all aspects of the academic world. This paper argues that the role of the universities will have to be reengineered, and that the keyword in this process will be knowledge management.

In the academic debate, virtual academy is often reduced to the issue of implementing new technology. In the political debate it often is reduced to the issue of representation in the university management boards. Meeting the challenges of the information age is, however, a complex process that will call for a more comprehensive reengineering of university concepts. The process includes change in the on-campus activities towards a more flexible learning environment, and it includes change in the role of the universities towards a more open communication with society.

Learning Lab Geomatics is a strategy for implementing the concept of virtual academy in the area of educating surveyors at Aalborg University. The strategy includes a number of elements such as reengineering the learning process through web-based lecture materials; quality assurance in digital publishing; pedagogical innovation in the learning process; and internationalization of the total study environment.

Learning Lab Geomatics is designed to provide a new and flexible learning environment based on knowledge management. It will provide educational innovation through a more focused self-learning perspective, and it aims to provide an efficient interaction between education, research and professional practice at national as well as international level.

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