



# Lifelong Learning and Distance Education

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# UNESCO's Mission in Education

- Promote education as a fundamental right
- Improve the quality of education
- Stimulate experimentation, innovation and policy dialogue

# WCHE Priority Framework of Action

- Lifelong Learning (para 1.d)
  - ... higher education institutions to include lifelong learning approaches, giving learners an optimal range of choice and a flexibility of entry and exit points within the system, and redefine their role accordingly, which implies the development of open and continuous access to higher learning and the need for bridging programmes and prior learning assessment and recognition



# **UNESCO Global Forum on Quality Assurance, Accreditation and the Recognition of Qualifications**

- Standard-setting Activities
- Capacity Building Activities
- Information-Sharing Activities

Second Global Forum Focus on ‘Widening Access to Quality Higher Education’

28-29 June 2004, UNESCO Paris



# ICTs and Higher Education Activities

## **General Overview - Objectives**

- Actions foreseen by the Global Forum in the area of policy development, information sharing and capacity Building
- Focus on strategies to bridge the digital divide and assure that trade in higher education assures equity of access, respect for cultural diversity and national sovereignty

# Mega University Follow up

- The Global Mega-Universities network was launched (GMUNET) based on an agreement signed by all participating Universities
- Follow up activities by UNESCO include an overview of quality assurance procedures and criteria used by Mega Universities; and assistance in establishing mutual credit transfer procedures- establish procedures for sharing courseware

# Mobility

- 6 UNESCO Conventions on the Recognition of Qualifications ratified by over 120 Member States world-wide.
- Meeting new challenges : the recognition of non-traditional qualifications



# The way ahead: Partnerships

- Key role of partnerships to implement Actions





# The way ahead : Events and Activities

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Global Forum on International Quality Assurance, Accreditation and the Recognition of Qualifications UNESCO, Paris 28-29 June 2004