

# Sustainable development and integration of ICT-supported learning

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## Abstract

The faculty of medicine of the university of Zurich promotes the integration of ICT-supported learning environments into the curriculum. Since 2001, the virtual medical platform VAM ([www.vam.unizh.ch](http://www.vam.unizh.ch)) is providing the medical students in Zurich with a growing amount of highly interesting e-learning offers. The aim of the present study is to outline a perspective for e-learning projects in terms of resources (funding) and their role in the curriculum.

## Introduction

In August 2002 a survey was held among the current 21 e-learning projects to determine (1) the level of the curricular integration, (2) the budget spent for the development and (3) an estimation of the resources necessary for the continuous operation of ICT-supported learning.

## Results

The e-learning projects presently cover approximately 6.6 % of the total curricular teaching / learning time. However, not all projects do yet compensate the time needed to work through the program or define credits for the students.

The personal resources needed for development of all projects were 26 full-time positions. The estimated resources needed for project operation would diminish by 15% only if the projects would continue to work independently from each other. There would be a shift from programming to content management and tutoring tasks.

## Conclusions/take-home messages

For a sustainable and cost-effective operation of ICT-supported learning, we propose a central ICT-coordination using synergies between projects. Integration of e-learning in the medical curriculum requires a close interaction between ICT-developers and curriculum planners.