



Young Americas Business Trust

## **YABT / MIT Sloan / Delft University of Technology Research Project on Internet-based Entrepreneurship Education**

The Young Americas Business Trust is part of a research project being conducted by Machiel Belderbos, a graduate student in System Engineering Policy Analysis and Management at the Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands. This research will design a sustainable internet-learning solution (e-learning distributed over the Internet), which stimulates the development of entrepreneurship in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The main part of the project will be conducted at the MIT School of Management in Boston (MIT Sloan). The project is focused on the e-learning application .LRN. This open source application is co-initiated by MIT Sloan and is an important part of their e-learning environment. MIT was the first university to put its entire curriculum on the Internet and make this freely available.

MIT's OpenCourseWare is a free and open educational resource for faculty, students, and self-learners around the world. to advance knowledge and education, and serve the world in the 21st century. It is true to MIT's values of excellence, innovation, and leadership.

The Young Americas Business Trust (YABT) acts as a catalyst young entrepreneur development in the Americas through innovative training, leadership, and technology partnerships." YABT is involved in various projects concerning the education of young entrepreneurs in Latin America and the Caribbean.

YABT and the thesis project of Machiel are aiming at the same target; developing entrepreneurship education in Latin America. When both projects cooperate, they will complement and strengthen each other with a preliminary design report at the end of March.

Machiel's development of the project will be divided into three phases (analytical phase, focused analytical phase and design and validation phase). During each phase Machiel will carry out activities which are related to the activities of YABT and are part of his thesis project:

### **Analytical Phase / Introduction**

#### ***Objective:***

Obtaining sufficient background knowledge to construct a good overview of all the important issues in the field of entrepreneurship education and internet learning.

#### ***Activities:***

- Analyzing entrepreneurship education (in general and in Latin America)
- Analyzing internet learning (including .LRN)
- Creating the project plan for the next phase together with MIT Sloan and YABT

#### ***Products:***

- A sub report about all the relevant and important issues in the field of entrepreneurship education and internet learning
- Specified project plan for the next phase

### **Focused Analytical Phase**

***Objective:***

Presenting an overview of both educational concepts (entrepreneurship education at MIT Sloan and YABT), their use of internet-tools and their differences, which will serve as the input for the next phase and is a reflection for MIT Sloan and YABT

***Activities:***

- Analyzing the role of .LRN in entrepreneurship education at MIT Sloan
- Analyzing the entrepreneurship education (and the used internet tools) at YABT
- Analyzing the differences between the entrepreneurship education at MIT Sloan - YABT
- Creating the project plan for the next phase together with MIT Sloan and YABT

***Products:***

- A sub report about entrepreneurship education at MIT Sloan and YABT (including their differences) and the role of .LRN and other internet tools in this education
- Specified project plan for the next phase

### **Design and Validation Phase**

***Objective:***

Designing and proposing a sustainable and validated internet solution for MIT Sloan and YABT, which facilitates entrepreneurship education in Latin America

***Activities:***

- Designing an internet-learning solution for entrepreneurship education based on .LRN and on the educational programs of YABT and MIT Sloan.
- Validating the proposed solution by testing various internet learning environments and by projecting the lessons learned of related initiatives on this solution.

***Products:***

- A final report that describes the proposed internet solution and the results of the above mentioned activities
- Operational parts of the internet-learning environment, which will be used for the validation
- The goal is to finish these activities before the 1<sup>st</sup> of May 2005.

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