



EUROPEAN DISTANCE AND E-LEARNING NETWORK

Laudation

on the occasion of awarding EDEN Distinguished Fellow

Professor Alan Tait

Pro-Vice Chancellor (Curriculum and Awards), Open University, UK

EDEN President 2007 - 2010

EDEN Vice-President 2003 - 2007

Chair, Steering Committee of the Network of Academics and Professionals 2002- 2008

Chief Editor, European Journal of Open, Distance and E-Learning EURODL

Alan Tait was founding member of the Budapest Platform, the immediate predecessor organisation of EDEN in 1990. He actively supported the preparations leading to the launching of EDEN as European association in 1991.

In the historically significant years of the political and economic changes in Europe in the early nineties, Alan was supporting the East-West co-operation actions, which contributed later to the enlargement of the European Union.

Alan Tait has been for decades one of the leading personalities of the European open and distance learning field. His experience and reputation has been contributing to the reputation of EDEN in Europe and beyond, the development of prominent position on the international scene.

Alan has served over six years as member of the EDEN Executive Committee. He greatly supported the continuity of EDEN as stable and growing community. Alan has represented a professional and policy authority in the EC. As President and Vice-President, he has been a driver of several important initiatives, raising new ideas, supporting strategy development, promoting international liaisons. He gave significant momentum to strengthening EDEN's academic reputation and professional recognition. Alan has invented and successfully introduced the EDEN Fellowship scheme.

As Chief Editor, Alan Tait has put on new track the European Journal of Open, Distance and E-Learning. As result of his leadership, the academic standards, appreciation and impact of EURODL have improved the professional basis of the Journal by reinforcing its Editorial Board.

The Executive Committee thanks Alan for his long lasting, highly valued commitment and support which have been instrumental for the achievements of EDEN.

Valencia, 9 June 2010