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ICT RESOURCES IN ROMANIAN HIGH SCHOOLS

INTEGRATING HIGH SCHOOL LANGUAGE CURRICULA

Lithuanian & Romanian Gap Analysis Regarding Language Teachers ICT Needs

The present research, based on a questionnaire which was applied to educational institutions in Romania and Lithuania, vocational, technological and theoretical schools, aims at identifying the characteristics of the ICT equipment used in high schools laboratories used in the teaching and learning, characteristics of the software used in these laboratories, as well as the needs for new educational software dedicated to computer assisted language learning. The results, involving responses from 375 high schools all over the 42 districts of Romania (the questionnaire was sent to 630 schools and 423 accepted to answer it), are compared with similar responses from Lithuanian high schools. Both teams of researchers used the same questionnaire.

The questionnaire is the result (as it can be noticed from the exchange of E-mail messages) of a draft made by the Romanian team and the suggestions received from all our POOLS partners. The final form of the questionnaire took into consideration all the suggestions received received within the period of January to May 2006.

QUESTIONNAIRE ON STAFF / STUDENT TRAINING NEEDS IN THE INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES AREA

Please, tick the corresponding answer according to your situation. e.g.

1.	IDENTIFY THE CHARACTERISTICS OF YOUR ICT-EQUIPPED LABORATORIES			
1.1.	Do you have ICT laboratories within you institution?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Planning in the near future <input type="checkbox"/>
1.2.	Specify the number of ICT laboratories			
1.3.	Are there any intentions to expand the number of ICT laboratories?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
1.4.	How many workstations (PC units), on average, are there in each laboratory ?			
1.5.	Do you use a server with the workstations?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Planning in the near future <input type="checkbox"/>
1.6.	Does the server / ICT operator restrict the access of the workstations?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Partially <input type="checkbox"/>



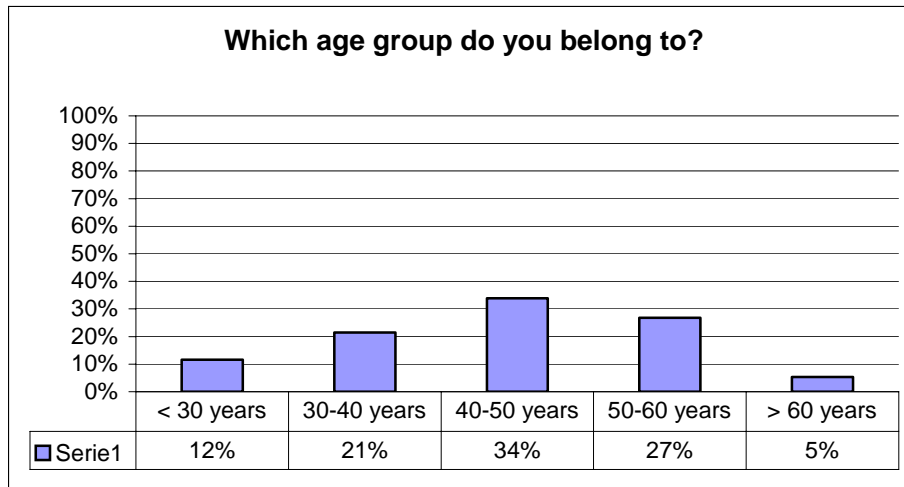
1.7.	Are the workstations conected to a local network (INTRANET) ?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Partially <input type="checkbox"/>
1.8.	Are the workstations conected to an external network (INTERNET) ?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Partially <input type="checkbox"/>
2.	IDENTIFY THE CHARACTERISTICS OF YOUR ACTIVITY INVOLVING ICT-EQUIPMENT IN TEACHING & LEARNING PROCESSES			
2.1.	Do you use the Web for personal use ?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Planning in the near future <input type="checkbox"/>
2.2.	Do you use the Web for teaching and learning in your classes?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Planning in the near future <input type="checkbox"/>
2.3.	Do you use blogs for teaching and learning in your classes?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Planning in the near future <input type="checkbox"/>
2.4.	Have you had your students write web pages ?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Planning in the near future <input type="checkbox"/>
2.5.	Do you use e-portofolios with your students ?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Planning in the near future <input type="checkbox"/>
3.	IDENTIFY THE CHARACTERISTICS REGARDING YOUR ICT-EQUIPPED LABORATORIES USED IN THE TEACHING & LEARNING PROCESSES			
3.1.	How many of the available laboratories are used exclusively for computer assisted Romanian language teaching ?			
3.2.	How many of the available laboratories are used exclusively for computer assisted foreign languages teaching ?			
3.3.	How many of the available laboratories are also used for computer assisted teaching in case of other subjects, e.g. ?			
4.	IDENTIFY OTHER EQUIPMENT USED IN YOUR LABORATORIES BESIDES ICT INVOLVED IN TEACHING & LEARNING PROCESSES			
4.1	Do you use any other audio-video equipment in your laboratories, e.g., Over Head Projector, PC Projector, VCR, DVD, TV, etc. ?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Planning in the near future <input type="checkbox"/>
4.2.	Specify the number of these audio-video equipment items. (e.g. 2 , 0)	Over Head Projector <input type="checkbox"/>	Cable / Satellite Television <input type="checkbox"/>	Video <input type="checkbox"/>
		PC Projector <input type="checkbox"/>	CD/Cassettes player <input type="checkbox"/>	DVD player <input type="checkbox"/>
4.3.	Do you use recordings on cassettes/VHS/CDs/DVDs to supplement class interaction?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Planning in the near future <input type="checkbox"/>
4.4.	Do you transfer audio cassettes to CD ?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Planning in the near future <input type="checkbox"/>

4.5.	Do you transfer CDs to MP3 ?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Planning in the near future <input type="checkbox"/>
4.6.	Do you transfer VHS to DVD ?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Planning in the near future <input type="checkbox"/>
5.	IDENTIFY CHARACTERISTICS OF SOFTWARE USED IN YOUR LABORATORIES INVOLVED IN TEACHING & LEARNING PROCESSES			
5.1.	Do you use computer assisted language learning including working with web resources to support Romanian language teaching ?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Planning in the near future <input type="checkbox"/>
5.2.	Do you use computer assisted language learning including working with web resources to support foreign language teaching ?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Planning in the near future <input type="checkbox"/>
5.3.	Do you use computer assisted learning activities including working with web resources in the process of teaching other subjects?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Planning in the near future <input type="checkbox"/>
5.4.	In general, the educational software used is:	Your own developed software products <input type="checkbox"/>	Commercial licensed software <input type="checkbox"/>	Open Source licensed software <input type="checkbox"/>
5.5.	Mention some of the software products used in you teaching activities.			
5.6.	Specify the source(s) of the software products used in you teaching activities.			
5.7.	Would you be interested in a course on methodology aspects of using ICT in language teaching? If so, what kind of courses do you prefer ?	onsite courses <input type="checkbox"/>	online courses <input type="checkbox"/>	mixed courses <input type="checkbox"/>
5.7.	Would you be interested in a course on development of ICT supporting materials for language teaching? If so, what kind of courses do you prefer ?	onsite courses <input type="checkbox"/>	online courses <input type="checkbox"/>	mixed courses <input type="checkbox"/>

Here are some of the most relevant questions and answers of the survey expressed in percentages:

1. Age

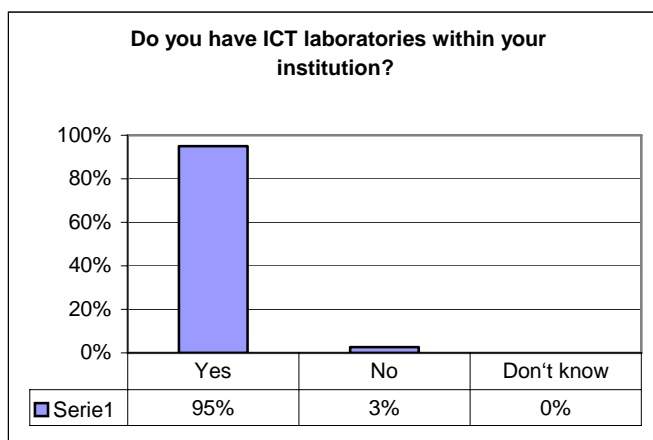
Lithuania / Romania



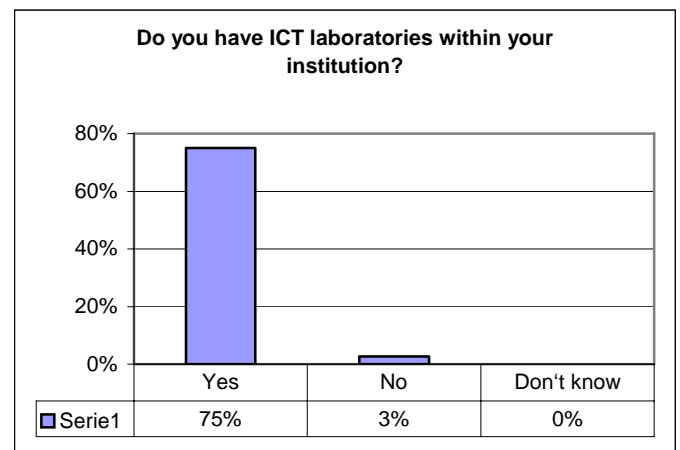
Comments: Most of the respondents belong to the middle age group and above. That emphasizes, what actually the survey analysts expected, the necessity of training sessions regarding the ICT usage for this specific age category group.

2. ICT Facilities / Laboratories

Lithuania



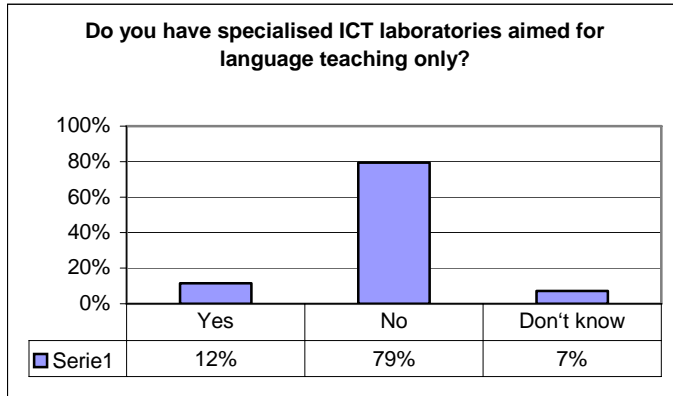
Romania



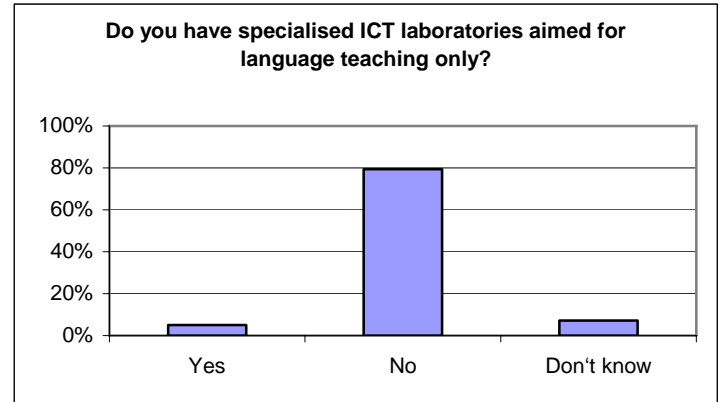
Comments: First, it was necessary to clarify the situation concerning the presence of ICT laboratories in the respective institutions. The survey demonstrated that the problem is not their presence, due to various programs that allowed the institutions to benefit from Governmental, PHARE and other International Projects, as well as some local sponsorships from important private companies, but the direction these ICT laboratories are used for.

3. ICT Specialized Laboratories

Lithuania



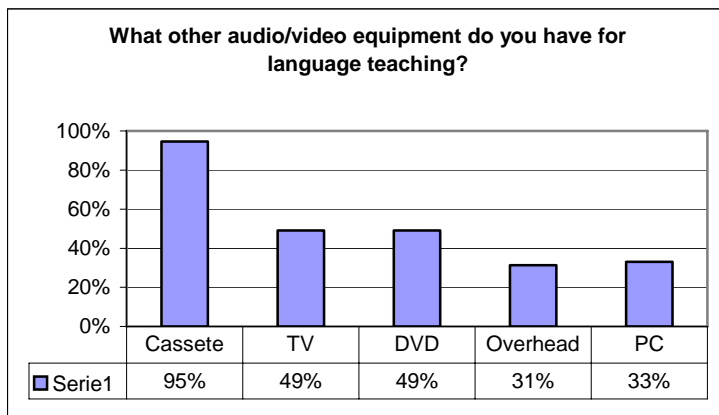
Romania



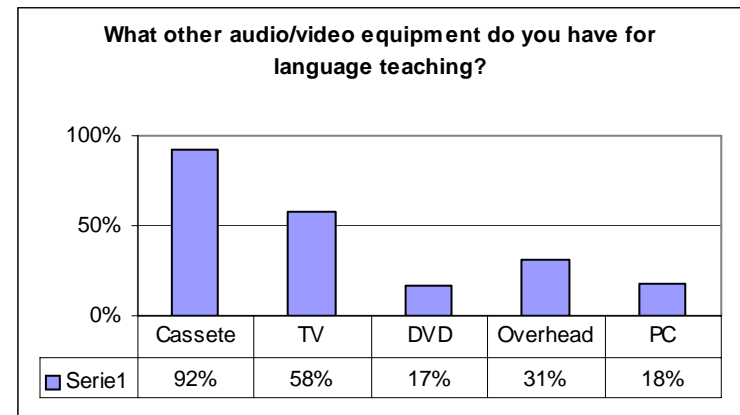
Comments: As expected, most of the ICT laboratories are not exclusively used for linguistic purposes due to their low number per each institution; they are also used in turns for other subjects that can make use of ICT facilities, for example: Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, etc.

4. Audio-Video Equipment Involved In Language Teaching

Lithuania

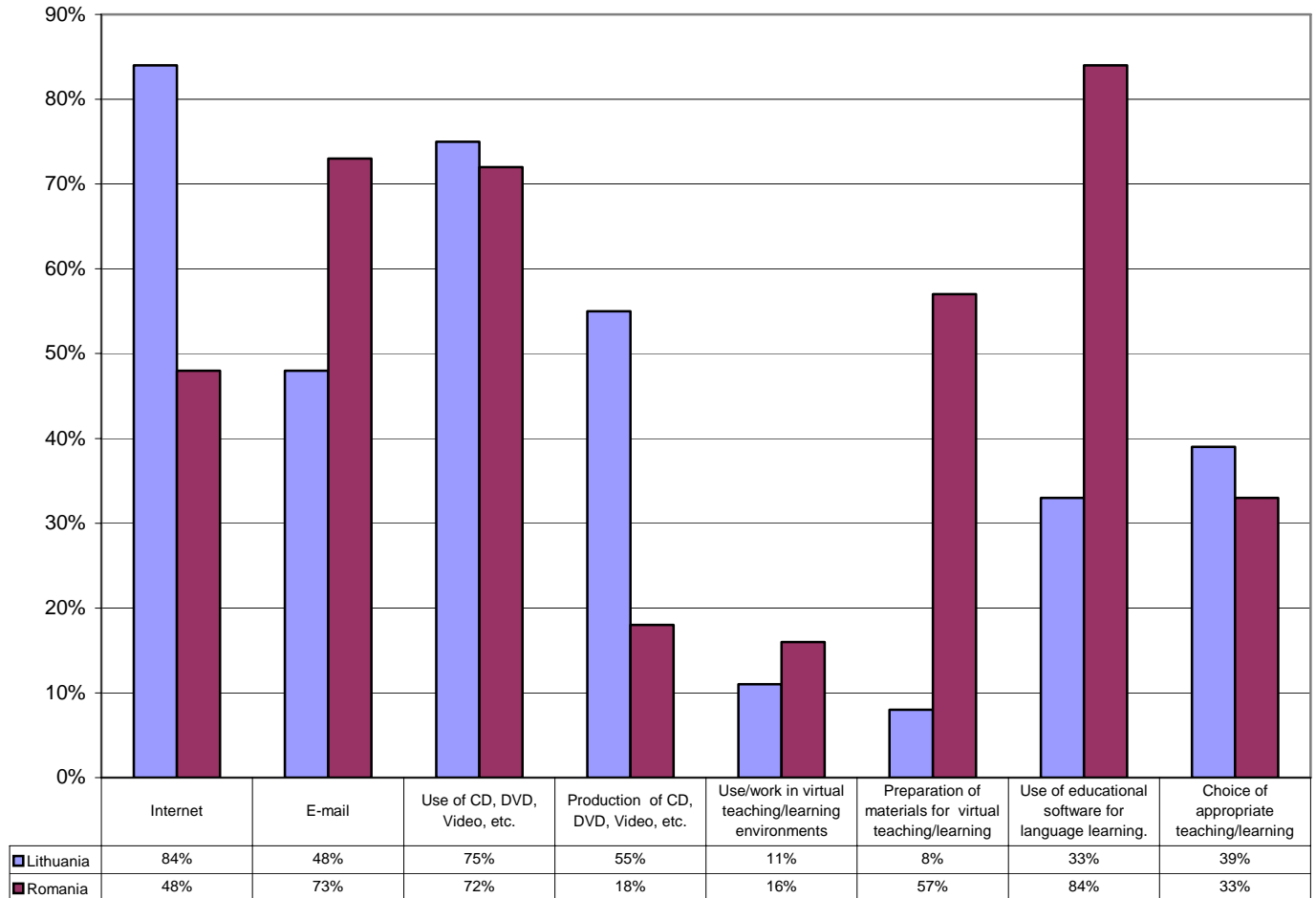


Romania



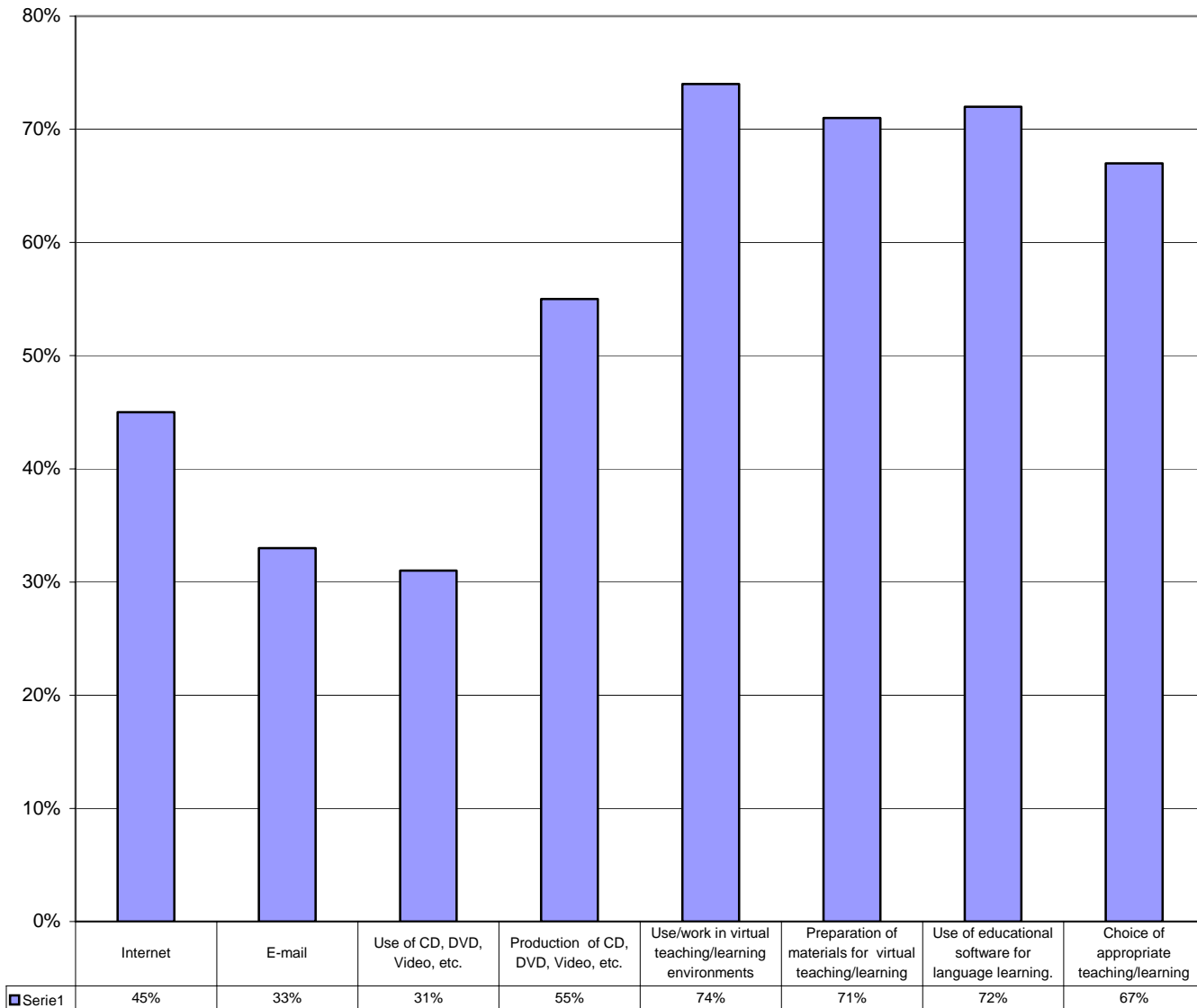
Comments: For the audio-video equipment used, the leading position is still held by the old kingly audio cassette, while other modern techniques are not largely available due to various factors like the complexity of usage within language classes and also a high price per unit makes them unaffordable for some educational institutions. For Romania, it is the case, especially, for the DVD and the Overhead (PC) Projector use.

5. Skills Involved in Computer Assisted Language Teaching



Comments: When the respondents were surveyed about the necessary skills involved in Computer Assisted Language Teaching, most of them mentioned the necessity of using educational software through DVDs or CDs as well as the importance of E-mail communicating in order to develop language skills and be in the same time attractive for the new generation.

6. Skills/Help Needed for Computer Assisted Language Teaching



Comments: The survey revealed the needed skills requested for the Computer Assisted Language Teaching and of top priority seems to be the necessity of specific knowledge regarding the use/work in virtual teaching/learning environments, this is closely followed by the need of specialized information about the preparation of such materials to be used in virtual teaching/learning environments. Choice of the appropriate teaching / learning method using ICT technology and using educational software also represent an imperative need to be developed.