

Project acronym **FlexNet**

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improved Systems Integration for Flexible Organic and Large Area

Electronics (FOLAE) and its exploitation

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		review	Constantin von Dewitz	Reviewer



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1. Abstract

The website is a platform where students and young researchers can find information for education and training possibilities in the field of flexible, organic and large area electronics (FOLAE). FlexNet Education and Training is determined to inform students and young researcher about research activities in the field of FOLAE and it can help universities with easy and effective international marketing and recruitment. Moreover, the portal provides the possibility to find appropriate partners for research collaborations.

Currently, TUC managed to find 111 different working groups in FOLAE in North America, 117 groups in Asia, 394 in Europe, 6 in Oceania and 1 in Africa.



2. Background and Approach

About FlexNet:

The EU FP7 project FlexNet (Network of Excellence for building up Knowledge for improved Systems Integration for Flexible Organic and Large Area Electronics (FOLAE) and its exploitation) aims at:

- interlinking Europe's FOLAE-expertise in technology, component, devices and systems integration technologies
- emphasizing commercial exploitation through SMEs in order to enable a wide spread of FOLAE-based future businesses in Europe
- integrating excellent scientific capacities from Southern and Eastern Europe

About FlexNET Education and Training

The aim of FlexNet Education and Training is to provide a platform on which students and young researcher can inform themselves about education and training possibilities in the field of flexible, organic and large area electronics (FOLAE). The platform offers information about research activities in the field and about international study-choices. Moreover, the portal can support universities/ research institutes in finding appropriate collaboration partners. The industry can get the information about competent research partners or promising opportunities for recruiting.

The FlexNET Education and Training "mapping" has been carried out by the Department of Digital Printing and Imaging Technology of the Institute for Print and Media Technology at Chemnitz University of Technology.

The mapping of publicly available courses in the field of FOLAE was started in the EU FP7 project PolyNet (Network of Excellence for building up Knowledge for the Exploitation of Organic and Large Area Electronics) by Prof. G. Horowitz, Université Paris Diderot: Report on the existing training programs for students and young researchers in the field of Organic and Large Area Electronics (V2.1 / Aug. 2009) (http://www.ydivde-it.de/polynet/public/knowledge/education-training). FlexNet used the findings of this mapping as a starting point and modified the approach since the intention of FlexNet is to find as many groups as possible to have an overview about the teaching offerings. All findings are the result of internet research which was already available on the internet. The "mapping" is described in more detail in D4.4.1, D4.4.2 and D4.4.3 "Mapping reports", "Mapping reports (1st update)" and "Mapping reports (2nd update)" which were handed in in month 8, month 16 and month 24. The findings of this mapping are published on the web portal. At the moment, TUC identified 111 different FOLAE working groups in North America, 117 groups in Asia, 394 in Europe, 6 in Oceania and 1 in Africa.

Next to the mapping results, the results of an industrial guestionnaire are published. The FlexNet industrial questionnaire is based on the findings and results of the PRODI questionnaire of 2008. The main difference for the 2010 FlexNet questionnaire is the form of questionnaire (web based instead of an EXEL sheet), the question set and the dissemination strategy. The intention stayed more or less the same; we tried to find out the educational needs of industry in the field of FOLAE in order to be able to develop a concept for training and education in the field. More detail about the questionnaire can be found in D4.4.4.

The web portal was designed and set up by TUC. In order to make the management of the content/data as simple as possible, a MySQL database had been created. The script language PHP was used for reading data directly and for generating Html display elements. For the visual design, an adapted layout was created with the help of Cascading Style Sheets (CSS). Finally, in the test phase, occurring defects were corrected.

The web portal is online accessible under:

http://bpr.mb.tu-chemnitz.de/FlexNet-Education/index.php?location=homepage.



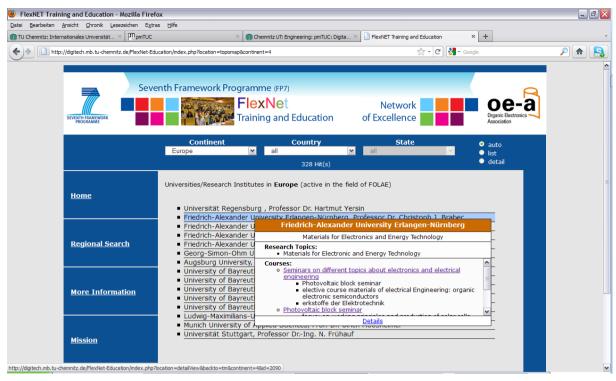


Figure 1: Screenshot: FlexNet Education and Training: list view

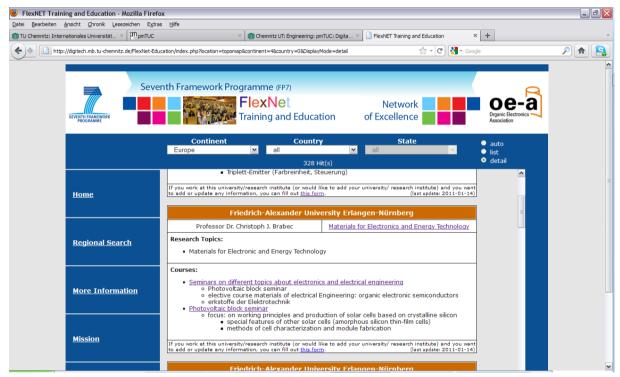


Figure 2: Screenshot: FlexNet Education and Training: detailed view



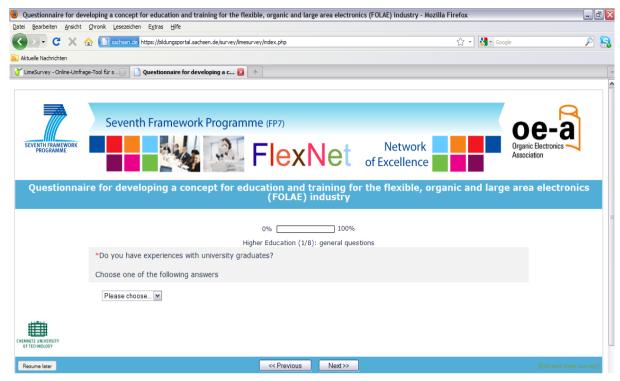


Figure 3: Screenshot: FlexNet questionnaire



3. Summary and Outlook

The internet platform FlexNet Education and Training provides information about lectures and courses as well as university/ research institute activities in the field of flexible, organic and large area electronics (FOLAE) industry. Since our globally emerging industry is creating a high demand of new and well educated employees with specialized knowledge and skills, it is necessary to support future employees in finding education and training possibilities in this field.

The mapping is part of the EU FP7 project FlexNet (Network of Excellence for building up Knowledge for improved Systems Integration for Flexible Organic and Large Area Electronics and its exploitation). Within FlexNet, a concept for education and training on the European level which meets the needs of the industry is currently being developed. Another important part for developing this concept is the industrial questionnaire.

(https://bildungsportal.sachsen.de/survey/limesurvey/index.php?sid=62675&newtest=Y&lang=en)

With the questionnaire, TUC gathered information about the educational needs of the FOLAE industry. The questionnaire was also developed by the Baumann Group of Chemnitz University of Technology (TUC) as a member of FlexNet and in cooperation with the OE-A. The questionnaire was distributed among OE-A members and others. The collected data is already analyzed by the Baumann Group of TUC (D4.4.4 update questionnaire) and the results are also published on the web portal.

In the future, TUC intends to extend the mapping as well as the dissemination of the web portal by cooperating with the OE-A to host the web page and manage to update the content in the working group education. Moreover, TUC will publish the report on the development of a general concept for education and training on the Master level on the portal.