

# THE EUROPEAN SCHOOL OF ANTENNAS: A NEW MODEL OF DISTRIBUTED PHD SCHOOL

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The European School of Antennas (EuSA) is a new model of distributed PhD school for post-graduate and PhD students. The school is funded by the European Union within the Sixth Framework Programme and it is part of a Network of Excellence called Antenna Center of Excellence (ACE). The EuSA, framed in the "Training and Education" Area of ACE, is supported by the Virtual Center of Excellence (VCE, <http://www.antennasvce.org>) and by the Virtual Antenna Laboratory (VALab, <http://valab.det.unifi.it/new/valab/>).

The school has the aim to improve the educational cooperation at European level and to increase the knowledge on both established and new antenna topics at advanced level. The school for 2005 comprises 12 short courses concerned with topical antenna subjects geographically distributed in 10 European Universities and 2 research Centers. The mobility expenses is supported by EU funding within the framework of the ACE.

The project was organized in two years; during the first year of work (2004), the primary task has been the organization of the network of EuSA courses on the basis of an inventory of the PhD regular and temporary antenna courses available among the ACE partners. Other tasks are relevant to the definition of rules for distributing travel grants to students and the strategy to increase the industrial PhD participation. E-learning materials already developed by the partners has been collected in the VALab. Foreseen for the 2005 is the activation of the courses and the creation of a section European Virtual Antenna Courses within VCE to manage on line exercises and e-learning materials. The courses of the EuSA have a common format and on the objectives for the courses. The partners of the Training and Education Area of ACE have agreed on the following points: 1) The courses should be on an advanced level suited for PhD students. 2) The courses should be held during a single week, with possible extra assignments for extra credits done at home after the course. 3) The format is typically 20-25 hours of lectures with an additional 10-20 hours of additional activities. 4) Each course should give 1.5-2 ECTS credits, or up to 3 credits in the event of additional home assignment, and the grading should be pass/fail. 5) The courses are free of charge, except for cost of material, dinners etc., for the ACE partners. 6) The mobility and the PhD title achievement in the framework of local PhD schools will be subject of a "Reciprocity agreement" to be signed in 2005.