

## Digital Single Market

19 March 2013

# EU funded project awarded by UN and UNESCO

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The world of online education is changing rapidly and Europe seems to have an answer and its own role in the game!

***Can you imagine a Europe where learners and professionals would be able to revisit online the best lectures? Have you also wished to access content that is always intellectually fresh, exciting and challenging? Would you like that kind of content's dissemination to be personalised? Well, this is exactly what we are doing at [VideoLectures.Net](#) <sup>[1]</sup> and that is why we got an award hosted by UN and UNESCO.***

VideoLectures.NET is a service we have been building gradually since 2007 at the "[Jožef Stefan Institute](#)" <sup>[2]</sup> in Ljubljana (Slovenia). It started off as a website with videos for a local artificial intelligence seminar series; today it is an amazing online video library and a global web portal for high-definition academic videos. What we aim at is promoting open access to academic lectures given by distinguished scholars, scientists, researchers and academics from many scientific fields; these lectures may be given at conferences, summer schools, workshops and, even, the university classroom. It is a unique resource for high-quality, specialised academic talks. It is also a massive publication channel for academic videos related to research projects within FP6, FP7 and the upcoming Horizon 2020. At present, the video library includes content from 761 events, 10,763 authors and 14,251 lectures (some 16,442 videos in total) and channels for events organized by more than 30 European projects.



The team efforts paid off and couple of weeks ago we collected in Paris the UN and UNESCO sponsored [World Summit Award \(WSA\)](#) [3] where *VideoLectures.Net* was chosen as the best "**e-Science & Technology**" **product of the decade**. The award was launched in 2003 and is a part of the United Nations Summit on the Information Society. The website was a WSA winner back in 2009 and this year the WSA Online Jury evaluated 200 WSA winners from the last decade and selected which they consider to be the 8 all-time best: the WSIS+10 Global Champions. VideoLectures.Net was one of them.

Our vision is a free and open access to academic knowledge in the form of online videos; we consider this the right approach for addressing the global digital divide in education and knowledge transfer. This prestigious award is a big incentive for us to try even harder to achieve this vision.

And we are not stopping here: as the collection grew larger and activities are becoming more complex since 2010, we co-founded the [Knowledge 4 All Foundation Ltd](#) [4]. This is a non-profit, based in London (UK), aiming at maximising the impact of VideoLectures.Net's online collection and at creating tools and intelligent services that complement and enhance its video content. K4A is a successor to the [PASCAL2 Network of Excellence](#) [5], an FP7 research project and the main supporter of VideoLectures.Net. Among the over 60 members of the Foundation are some of the most important research and development centres in the field of artificial intelligence in Europe.

Join us @ K4A and use VideoLectures.Net!

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#### Links

[1] <http://videolectures.net/>

[2] <http://ijs.si>

[3] <http://www.wsis-award.org/index.wbp>

[4] <http://k4all.org/>

[5] <http://www.pascal-network.org/>