Centre for Education
Herning - Denmark
Videoconferences
Experience with Netlearning

- Since 1994 netbased learning has had a high priority at our center
- In the beginning we experimented using different textbased systems as e-mail and bulletin boards
- At that time communication using synchronous audio and video connection didn’t even appear to our mind
Experience with NetLearning [2]

- In 1998 we had the opportunity to test the use of videoconferences lending systems from various manufacturers for a period of four weeks.
- The participants’ evaluation of these experiments were so positive that we were granted 275,000 € to buy the necessary equipment for five VC studios.
Experience with NetLearning [3]

Experience with NetLearning and videoconferences is based on cooperation between the following networks:

- A Comenius 2 project "Inset Online" in cooperation with partners from Scotland and Balears supported by the EU [http://www.inset-online.dk](http://www.inset-online.dk)
- A regional project "A virtual learning environment". Supported by the Danish Ministry of Education and Ringkjøbing County.
- A Comenius 1 network between Ikast Gymnasium, DK and IES Municipera, Palma M.
Different Designs in Using Videoconferences

- Two-point conferences
- Multipoint conferences
- Combinations of videoconferences and
  - E-mail
  - Text-based conference systems
  - Face-to-face meetings
  - ???
Two-point Conferences
Uses of Two-point Conferences

- Involving external experts e.g.
  - A native Spanish teacher in a Spanish class
  - A philosophy professor in a philosophy class

- Uniting small groups virtually to one group e.g.
  - Courses in languages as Russian
  - Courses on very special subjects e.g. special analytical techniques for hospital staff

- Cooperation between groups - regional, national or international
Uses of Multipoint Conferences

- Presentation of actual themes to a larger audience placed on different locations e.g.
  - A lecture on the teaching of foreign languages to an international audience
  - A lecture on problems of hygiene given by the medical authorities in Copenhagen to the regional staff responsible for the hygiene at hospitals
Some goodies

- Jobinterviews with Greenland and Australia.
- Final negotiation of a sales contract between a Danish company and an Australian mining company.
- An examination – examiner and censor in Cape Town, South Africa – student in Denmark.
Conclusions

- Videoconferences is a great instrument to make things possible, that are otherwise impossible
  - But a face-to-face meeting will always be better
- Videoconferences demands more discipline than face-to-face meeting
  - It takes more planning from the teacher
  - Participants have to get accustomed to the VC-environment
Access to studios for VC

- Netherlands: 45 sites
- Austria: 15 sites
- Spain: 45 sites
- These are only those sites who have registered at FTF. There are many more!
- See also: [http://www.mivnet.com](http://www.mivnet.com)
IP or ISDN? A difficult question!

- Most group systems on the market today support both!
- ISDN more expensive than IP!
  - But there are great differences from country to country
- The video and audio quality of IP is not poorer than ISDN!
- But You will have more potential partners using ISDN!