

VIRTUAL COURSES IN TOURISM

The Use of Free Software

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This paper analyses the implementation of the learning management system in a virtual course for tourism training in the context of a government management. For this purpose, the case study methodology has been adopted. The focal point of the case study has been a Municipal Government (Campo Limpo in the São Paulo State; Brazil) which is undertaking an organizational changing process heading to a management model that allows a higher degree of self-sufficiency for managerial decision making in the organizational units. The relevance of this study is emphasized by the effectiveness in which training course's participants get integrated and interact with each other and with the instructor through the learning management system Moodle.

KEY WORDS: *sustainability tourism; tourism development; ecologic tourism; e-learning in tourism*