

## **BINET 2000**

### **A NETWORK FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

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The forerunners of the BINET research projects on electronic communication and distance education first began at the Cluj University of Agriculture, Romania, in 1985. They were continued at Berzsényi College, Szombathely, from 1987-1997, and at the BINET terminal of the Hungarian World Federation in Budapest in 1997. They will, hopefully, also be continued at the Biological Institute of the University of Veszprem, in 1999.

BINET is based on the idea that ethnobiodiversity – the interplay of human biological and cultural/ethnic diversity with biological and environmental diversity – is a basic phenomenon in man-made ecosystems. Ethnobiodiversity was deterministic in the evolution of Western civilisation and of crucial importance to the European mode of development. Western civilisation – good or bad – based on "European Values" was essential to the evolution of the noosphere and in the emergence of cyberspace.

Cultural diversity – based on language and ethnicity – is important for long-term environmental sustainability, including the avoidance of destructive political conflicts. Accordingly:

- Native cultures, languages and ethnicity were, and still remain, an important component of European environmental diversity.
- Ethnic traditions may contribute to environmental sustainability or increase environmental vulnerability, and are thus worthy of special attention in education and training.
- Environmental forecasts for the 21st century are stressing the importance of advanced environmental/ethnocultural education and training on every level; international, national, local and familial.
- Open education is an important tool in this process.

BINET 2000 is willing to contribute to these important topics from a Hungarian point of view.

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