Since UNI Online was launched four years ago we have equipped and trained many unions around the world. Twenty five computers went out earlier this year to unions and liaison councils across Africa with another 25 ready to go. A similar number is ready to go to unions in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

A key feature of UNI Online is e-Learn with basic training modules on software programs to which members have free access and get certificates on completion. In the future e-Learn will cover a lot more topics.

UNI Online is backed by SIF and Finansförbundet, Sweden and has a new support project, called Visibility. This aims to skill unions to communicate and raise their profile, to get the union message across and boost web campaigning.

UNI Bridge is another project that provides direct assistance to unions to set up websites.

UNI Development has just sent out a comprehensive Educators Handbook to every affiliate. And we have a new website that tells the development department story and gives more services to members through publications and management tools.

“We want to give more added value - through planning, management and transparency,” says UNI Development’s Raul Requena.

Visit our UNI Development website: www.uniglobalunion.org/development
Building unions for tomorrow

From Moldova to Peru, from Zimbabwe to Nepal, UNI Development is unrolling a substantially enlarged programme. No fewer than 120 projects involving around 400 activities are planned for 2005 and the numbers are increasing.

The Global Development Impact Initiative - or GDII - is a new strategy to monitor and evaluate projects to ensure that money endowed is producing results.

UNI Online continues to bring more unions on to the Internet and email - and strengthens the UNI family.

There’s more emphasis on new sectors and geographical areas like the Middle East. UNI held its first inter-sectoral seminar in Amman in July with a delegation of Iraqi trade unionists among those attending.

There’s a bigger emphasis on organising and on enhancing the performance and leadership of unions - to the benefit of their members.

A partnership for the future

Our work is a partnership - with UNI Development bringing together unions in the developing world with unions and donors in the developed world.

Much of the money is channelled by affiliates and from organisations like LO/TCO, Sweden; FNV Mondiaal, Netherlands; the FES foundation in Germany; SASK, Finland; LO/FTF, Denmark and ACILS in the United States.

We also work closely with the International Labour Organisation, CC.OO and ISCOD in Spain and ISVI in Belgium.

Our job is to ensure that projects are effective in accelerating social progress and extending democracy.

Our job is also to build self-sufficiency by developing internal skills and capabilities in our growing unions.

“We have to join up all of our traditional tools with a new emphasis - development and management,” says Raul Requena, the new head of UNI Development.

“Development and management have not always been part of the union vocabulary - yet it’s part of employers’ vocabulary.”

UNI global union has a mission

UNI global union has a mission to build strong, independent and democratic unions around the world.

We want to bridge the digital divide and get all affiliates on to the Internet through our UNI Online project.

We are committed to help create gender equality through the education, training and involvement of women and to stimulate the recruitment and integration of young people into trade unions.

The ultimate aim is to empower all workers, wherever they are, to improve their well-being and help reduce global poverty.

The role of UNI Development is to help build unions for the future - with greater capacity and better use of resources to organise, to lead and to manage.

It means promoting visibility and political influence, as well as international labour standards and helping in the global fight against HIV/AIDS.

Ten steps to union development

- Recruitment and organising
- Building capacity, strategic planning and transparent administration
- Developing human resources
- Building union services and networks
- Working for union rights, democracy and fair trade
- Bringing a social dimension to regional integration
- Gender equality
- Initiatives for young workers
- Decent work - including child labour and the informal economy
- Unity that accommodates political, racial and religious diversity.