



The Editor for this Issue is Desmond Keegan (Ericsson Ireland)

Using Wireless Technologies for Context Sensitive Education and Training (CONTSENS)

There is an old adage in distance education research which states 'It is not technologies with inherent pedagogical advantages which are successful in distance education, but technologies which are generally available to citizens'. Never in the history of the use of technology in education has there been a technology that was as available to citizens as mobile telephony is today.

In an address to the United Nations on 25 September 2008, the CEO of Ericsson, Carl-Henric Svanberg stated 'Today there are more than 3.700.000.000 mobile subscriptions around the world. In a few years we will pass 5 billion. 90% of new growth will come from emerging economies'. For a world population of 6.5 billion a forecast of 5 billion mobile devices is striking. It means that nearly everyone in Africa and Asia will possess one.

It is the role of the field of mobile learning to harness for education and training this unprecedented availability of technology.

The profile of the typical mobile device is changing rapidly. It is estimated by 2010 that the number of people using mobile broadband connections will have increased to over half a billion. This access is being made on all types of mobile devices: mobile phones, media players, handheld games consoles, ultra portable PCs, etc.

Already one is seeing a great deal of convergence in the marketplace; while it is common to see people carrying both a mobile phone and a media player, such as an iPod, these devices are merging, with mobile phones offering gigabytes of storage for audio and video. Devices running Windows Mobile and Symbian have many of the features of laptops or desktop computers and are now being used to access the net at broadband speeds.

As a result it is now possible to envisage an audience for mobile learning content which is media rich, collaborative and always available to the user. Using established technologies such as GPS and SCORM, and developing for newer technologies such as RFID (Radio Frequency Identification), QR Codes and Mobile Positioning, training content can be developed for both context sensitive and location based delivery.

Context sensitive education and training refers to training material which is directly relevant to the training situation that the learner finds themselves in. Location based education and training refers to material which is directly relevant to the location in which the students find themselves.

The European Commission project "Using Wireless Technologies for Context Sensitive Education and Training" focuses on the development of context sensitive and location sensitive courseware and evaluating it with students. This is an area of education and training provision for which mobile learning has advantages not characteristic of face-to-face education, or distance education or e-learning.

The partners in this project are :

- Ericsson Education Ireland
- Giunti Labs s.r.l., Sestri Levante, Italy
- Corvinno Technology Transfer Centre, Budapest, Hungary
- University of Plovdiv, Bulgaria
- London Metropolitan University, United Kingdom
- European Consortium for the Learning Organisation, Wavre, Belgium.

To follow the development of this project please go to : www.ericsson.com/contsens

Dissemination Conference

E.C.L.O. is delighted to host the dissemination conference for the Contsens project. It will be held, in partnership with the KPC Groep, during ECLO's 16th International Conference entitled "Vitality in Organisations - Fit Until the Finish" on Thursday 18th and Friday 19th June, 2009 at KPC Groep's HQ in Hertogenbosch, Netherlands.

A dedicated strand of the conference will provide an excellent opportunity to hear about the project deliverables and to discuss the findings with the project team.

The Conference Sessions

Context Sensitive Location Based Training – A Corporate Case-Study	Judy Nix (Ericsson)
Steps Towards an Ontology Based Learning Environment	Gabor Kisminhok (Corvinno Technology Transfer Centre) ***
A workshop demonstrating the benefits of context and location sensitive training	Carl Smith (London Metropolitan University)
Performance-centred Solution for Context Sensitive and Location Based Mobile Learning	Nevena Mileva (University of Plovdiv)

*** Gabor Kisminhok received the E.C.L.O. Speakers Award for the most ground breaking doctoral / academic contribution at E.C.L.O.'s 15th international conference in Budapest

HOW DO I REGISTER?

Visit the conference website from the ECLO home page www.eclo.org or contact Jim Jack (jim.jack@eclo.org) if you have any questions.