



E.C.L.O.

European Consortium for the Learning Organisation

The E-Learner

The Editor for September 2008 is Desmond Keegan (Ericsson Education, Ireland)

The Role of Mobile Learning in European Education is a European Commission Socrates project which started in 2006 and will end in September 2008 with the final report being available by November 2008.

The project partners are:

- Ericsson Education (Ireland)
- The European Consortium for the Learning Organisation (Belgium)
- TecMinho (Portugal)
- NKI (Norway)
- University of Corvinno (Hungary)
- University of Plovdiv (Bulgaria)

The focus of the project is the provision of a programme for the implementation of mobile learning in education and training in Europe. It is planned as a contribution to the thinking on mobile learning of the European Commission, the 27 European Ministries of Education and of institutions and individuals who are considering the implementation of mobile learning. Many of the final deliverables of the project are now available and can be found by following the hyperlinks below or by visiting the project website is at http://www.ericsson.com/ericsson/corpinfo/programs/the_role_of_mobile_learning_in_european_education/index.shtml

Workpackage 2 - Achievements Of Mobile Learning Today

Outputs / Achievements

This is the partnership's presentation of best practice in mobile learning worldwide today. Examples of mobile learning in educational administration; in academic education; in art galleries and museums are given.

Activities

There are extensive achievements in mobile learning by the University of Pretoria in South Africa who are probably the world leaders, Korea, Japan, China the USA, the UK, Italy and Malta.

Workpackage 3 - The Role of Mobile Learning in 27 EU States Today

Outputs / Achievements

This is an in-depth presentation of the role of mobile learning in European education today.

Activities

4-5 countries were allocated to each partner. They were required to carry out and write up authoritative analyses of the state of mobile learning in their allocated countries. Extensive use is already reported from the United Kingdom, Malta, Italy and Ireland.

Workpackage 4 - The Role of Mobile Learning in European Education

Outputs / Achievements

This is a policy recommendations document for European decision makers based on an in-depth study of the role of mobile learning, the 'law' of distance education research, the ubiquity of mobile devices especially in the 16-24 age group, the use of these devices in both administrative and academic higher education, the impact of 3G.

Activities

A three-tiered strategy based on mobile devices for administration; short 5 to 6 screen shots for academic advice; full modules on mobile devices. A major theme is the need for mobile learning to match wireless developments in other fields, the danger that education and training will be left behind. The importance of mobile learning becoming a revenue generator for telecommunications operators.

Workpackage 5 - The Pedagogical Aspects of Mobile Learning

Outputs / Achievements

The pedagogical characteristics of mobile learning and how it differs from face-to-face education, distance education and e-learning.

Activities

The pedagogical considerations of developing mobile learning for small screens, low memories, difficulties with graphics and the advantages of SMS, MMS, email, streaming video, photography. A major focus is how to make mobile learning interactive. The project explores mobile learning communities.

Workpackage 6 - Adapting eLearning and Face-to-Face Material to mLearning

Outputs / Achievements

This module presents strategies for transforming existing elearning and ILT (instructor led training) or face-to-face learning materials to mobile learning.

Activities

The strategies developed here are the establishment of procedures for the development of courses so that development is seamless and suitable for viewing on small mobile devices. This includes the production of graphics with small file sizes, not more than a couple of hundred bytes to reduce download time.

Workpackage 7 - Mobile Learning Course Development or Adaption, Teaching and Evaluation

Outputs / Achievements

Six mobile learning courses from the partners.

Activities

The development or adaptation of 6 mobile learning courses, their teaching to real students in real study situations and their evaluation in the five countries with scientifically designed joint questionnaires.

Workpackage 8 - Mobile Learning for the Disadvantaged and Disabled

Outputs / Achievements

The design of mobile learning specially suited to the disabled and to disadvantaged learners.

Activities

The advantages are well known: students with visual impairments, hearing impairments, mobility impairments, cognitive impairments and seizure disorders are all advantaged by mobile devices. For all disabled students mobile devices are more portable, lighter, more easily manipulated, available in more places and at more times than wired technologies. They are private and more personal in use.