Challenges in e-Learning methodologies and institutional policies. The Spanish case

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e-Learning Methodologies and Institutional Policies

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- *Aim of the Conference*

- *Selected topics and speakers*

- *International forum*

- *Conclusions*

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e-Learning Methodologies and Institutional Policies

Conclusions derived from the several contributions and discussions developed in the conference

- *General subjects*
- *Educational Context*
- *Media and resources*
- *Methodologies*
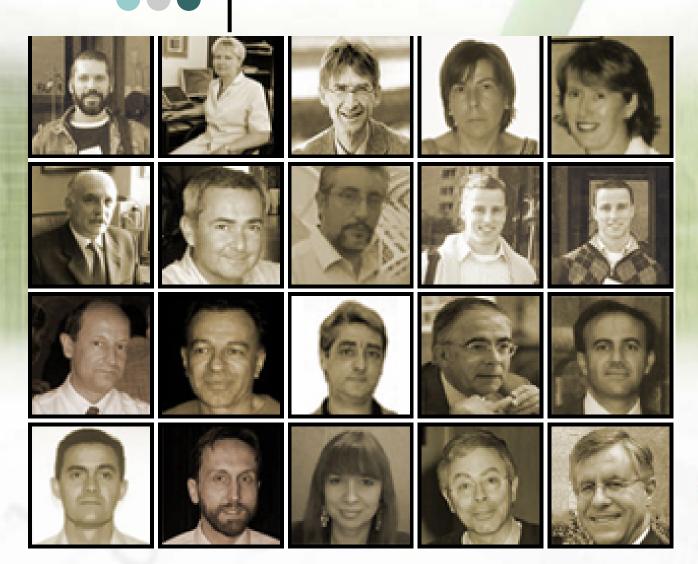- *Institutional Policies*

The speakers

General subjects

- *Necessity of a full integration of technologies in the current teaching-learning in the classroom*

- *The power of technological resources relies on their availability when they are needed*

General subjects

○ *ICT are a good resource for promoting the active learning (the learner learn doing things)*

   ● *Individualized: the student do things at his own pace*

   ● *Groupware learning: the activities suggested by the teacher encourage the interactivity between learners*

General subjects

- *ICT are a great opportunity for disabled people to make the most of their stay at the educational centre*

  - Flexible way to the objectives

  - Students with different mother languages: multilingual multimedia resources makes the learning process easier

Educational Context

- *Fast integration of different groups of people in the new knowledge society leads to a revolutionary impact in*
  - the way they share communication
  - their motivation
  - their interpersonal relationships

- *Rigid educational structures respond slowly to these changes*

- *The arrival of the new "digital natives" forces an accelerated transformation in the teaching methodologies*

Educational Context

- *New concepts: "digital identity", "social networks", "virtual communities"…*

- *Digital contents play new roles: accessible, interactive, hypermedia*

- *The educational structures and the teachers, must be aware of these changes so that they can adapt to them*

Media and resources

- Very fast development of ICT:

  - New solutions and ideas arise which can lead to improvements in learning

  - web 2.0: users play a double role as recipient and transmitter of information

  - Flexible and asynchronous systems such as forums, blogs and wikis, are gaining importance in the new virtual learning environments.

  - A key feature for the success: **methodology**

Media and resources

- Resources do not produce innovation on their own, they lead to important improvements when the media are used professionally by teachers

- There is an increasing ammount and variety of contents in new formats. Real environments combined with synthetic elements, makes the information clearer and more accessible: Virtual reality, Mixed reality

- By means of new systems for knowledge management, these contents are integrated within repositories that allow a much easier and quicker access to them

Media and resources

- Remarkable resource: **e-Portfolio**, a digital support of the evidences related to the competences acquired during the different stages (school, academic and professional).

- Virtual learning environments: Intranet resources must be integrated with open and freely accessible elements

- Media and resources must be integrated in the everyday activities of teachers and students at the school. Successful experiences are being carried out in relation with the integration of resources in the classroom, such as whiteboards

Methodologies

- Scholar students: Digital natives

  - Allows putting into practice active and collaborative methodologies in the different educational levels. The main focus on teaching relies on the student learning

  - The teacher, whose role continues being essential, turns from being just a transmitter into being a learning facilitator and guide.

  - For this purpose, he establishes the suitable conditions so that, through flexible interchange and handling of information, collaborative work and different types of activities; students get a significant learning (able to be applied in real situations).

Methodologies

○ Thus, a change in teachers' action approach is necessary. The teacher must be more and more expert in tasks such as the management of virtual learning communities, elaboration or adaptation of digital contents, management of active and collaborative methodologies, management of telematic tutorship, formative evaluation, etc.

○ The evaluation, a fundamental element for the motivation, needs to be continuous and properly integrated in the teaching + learning process. e-Portfolio is useful resource for this purpose

Methodologies

- e-Learning resources and methodologies are getting a more and more important role

  - Not only in the distance teaching + learning process

  - Also as a complement of the face to face teaching + learning.

  - It does not intend to replace the classroom by e-Learning, but to take advantage of these new resources

Institutional Policies

- Institutional policies have to respond to the needs concerning teachers' training on methodologies, development and adaptation of digital contents, hardware-software systems and infrastructures

- Spanish case: Conference put special emphasis on the need to break the excessive rigidities existing in all the levels of the educational system. The excessive regulations and segmentation constitute barriers to take advantage of the possibilities of the new Knowledge Society

Institutional Policies

- One of the main critical factors consists of new procedures that allow the permanent adaptation of the regulations and structures to the fast changes

- It is necessary to implement change-management procedures in the educational policies

Institutional Policies

- The fast development of new resources and their assimilation by digital natives makes it necessary to establish specific training plans for teachers of all levels

- Policies to promote teacher's sensitization so that they understand the need for a change and the great possibilities and advantages this new digital framework offers

- The change is not a choice to be considered, but a necessity.

Institutional Policies

- These transformations force teachers to put great additional effort that will have to be considered in their work charge, so that the change can be developed in a sustainable. The regulatory framework must appropriately consider the new model of teacher

- Finally, it is necessary to promote the cooperation between the different educational levels in order to share innovative experiences and to carry out new experiences, which will avoid the gaps in students' training and will make it easier to learn throughout all their life.

Thank you!

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