Use of Pedagogical Model Workspaces in a Virtual Learning Environment

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Model workspaces

• Teachers tend to use practical everyday knowledge in their pedagogical decision-making. Less emphasis is placed on theory or on rational thought. (Vahtivuori-Hänninen 2004)

• In the PraXis-project 2006 we made 4 model workspaces and placed them into Optima learning environment:

  Practical training,
  Development environment,
  Development based learning,
  Thesis workshop

• Lbd project tool (made in Transformative training) was added as the fifth model to Optima
Aims of the models

- develop online learning
- promote LbD type of working
- help teachers as they plan and conduct their teaching
Development environment- DE

- Development Environment is the most used model in Optima

- The Finnish Higher Education Evaluation Council mentioned Laurea’s LbD workspaces as a good example of online education 2008.
Key elements of the DE model

- Project Documents (framework, evaluation plan, memos)
- Communication Centre (calendar, messages, discussion boards)
- Knowledge-Building Centre (information searching, workshop framework for groups)
- Knowledge-Sharing Centre (reports, publications, service products)
- Evaluation Centre (self, peer and process evaluation)
- Optima instructions, Page templates (shared with all models)
DE of eNNI-project

- eNNI - a national R & D project of implementing LbD and nursing documentation 2008 - 2012
- eNNI - Electronic Documentation of Nursing Care - the R&D Project for Creation of Nursing Informatics Competence in cooperation between education and working life
- web-page: www.enni.fi
Operators in eNNI

- 14 UAS
- Ministry of Social Affairs and Health
- Ministry of Education
- Laurea UAS as the coordinator
- Finnish Online UAS
eLearning tools in eNNI-project

- Internet www-pages
- WebEx web conferencing
- Virtual Office (eNNI-DE in Optima)
- Blog http://ennihanke.blogspot.com
- Regional workspace (eNNI-DE in Optima and in Moodle)
Screenshot of eNNI- DE- in Optima
Achievements and challenges in modelling and developing eLearning

• Our two surveys in 2007 focused on the experiences of the use of model workspaces.
• The use of ready-made models was still limited, but many lecturers are willing to use them in future.
• Benefits: time-saving, idea-sharing and reduced workloads.
• The model workspaces need to be developed by the progressive model of LbD
• At the moment the models should also be more simple: ”Less is more”!
Experiences of eNNi

- Attendees will learn ICT skills and new useful eLearning tools besides the objectives of the project.
- Educators will learn project management and new ways of networking in virtual environment.
- Attendees are shy to communal cooperation and to share knowledge building in Optima.
- The project would benefit for more flexible networking facilities in learning environment, e.g. better information of what the others are doing in the workspace and online tools.
- More social web tools will be tested and used during the project, but we don´t want to offer too many eLearning tools for the attendees.
In Future

- Wiki will be used in workspaces
- eNNI networking seminar in Second Life is under consideration
- Co-operation with the Optima developers concerning the development of DE and workspaces
Thank you for your interest!

For more information, please contact

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