

eL&mL 2011

Foreword

The Third International Conference on Mobile, Hybrid, and On-line Learning [eL&mL 2011], held between February 23-28, 2011 in Gosier, Guadeloupe, France, continued bringing together federated views on mobileLearning, hybridLearning, and on-lineLearning. eL&mL 2011 was dedicated to educators, eLearning experts, and students to exchange their ideas, experiences and lessons learnt in different facets of modern learning.

eLearning refers to on-line learning delivered over the World Wide Web via the public Internet or the private, corporate intranet. The conference was intended to provide an overview of technologies, approaches, and trends that are happening right now. The constraints of e-learning are diminishing and options are increasing as the Web becomes increasingly easy to use and the technology becomes better and less expensive.

As the ease of execution increases, more and more institutions are discovering the benefits of delivering training via the Web. Interest in e-learning is at an all-time high, and the workshop served as a stimulus to accelerate collaboration and dialog among the e-learning providers, trainers, IT researchers and the lifelong, self-directed learners. Such business trends as an increased global economy, the pressures for rapid development, and the necessity of teamwork are shaping the present state and the future of eLearning.

Employees are increasingly aware that they must continue to update and advance their skills if they want to understand the state-of-the-art technologies and remain valuable to their organizations. This means that learners will be more and more self-directed, and they will want access to what they need when they need it. The Internet based educational materials and the e-learning providers have to meet this demand.

The conference focused on the latest trends in e-learning and also on the latest IT technology alternatives that are poised to become mainstream strategies in the near future and will influence the e-learning environment. Ubiquitous systems proliferate quickly due to the latest achievements in the industry of telecommunications, electronics, wireless, and economical globalization.

Wireless and mobility allow any user to timely use resources using various access technologies under (assumed) secured and guaranteed privacy. The family of mobile devices expand dramatically, allowing a user to have a portable office everywhere, every time. Mobile learning became a fact, due to the technical accessibility and Internet communications. Many online classes, learning systems, university curricula, remote education, and virtual training classes are now part of the corporate education and use.

Progress is made in user modeling and adaptive learning models. The generalization of successful practices on mobile learning is favored by many national and international projects and policy synchronization boards. Adaptation implies also the use of the classical methods, still in use and useful in some contexts and for some categories of users. Hybrid learning is an increasing trend in education today. The traditional classroom learning has been historically proven beneficial. Hybrid learning is rather a series of different learning strategies going from teacher-centric to student-centric. This

improves the critical thinking, creativity, self-management, self-study, and advance problem solving thinking of the student.

We take here the opportunity to warmly thank all the members of the eL&mL 2011 Technical Program Committee, as well as the numerous reviewers. The creation of such a broad and high quality conference program would not have been possible without their involvement. We also kindly thank all the authors who dedicated much of their time and efforts to contribute to eL&mL 2011. We truly believe that, thanks to all these efforts, the final conference program consisted of top quality contributions.

Also, this event could not have been a reality without the support of many individuals, organizations, and sponsors. We are grateful to the members of the eL&mL 2011 organizing committee for their help in handling the logistics and for their work to make this professional meeting a success.

We hope that eL&mL 2011 was a successful international forum for the exchange of ideas and results between academia and industry and for the promotion of progress in the areas of mobile, hybrid and on-line learning.

We are convinced that the participants found the event useful and communications very open. We also hope the attendees enjoyed the beautiful surroundings of Gosier, Guadeloupe, France.

eL&mL 2011 Chairs

Herwig Mannaert, University of Antwerp, Belgium
Masaya Okada, Shizuoka University, Japan
Elliot Soloway, University of Michigan Ann Arbor, USA
Göran Karlsson, KTH, Sweden
Dumitru Dan Burdescu, University of Craiova, Romania
Adam M. Gadomski, ECONA, Italy
Bernd Krämer, FernUniversität in Hagen, Germany