

Learning Networks for Professional Development & Lifelong Learning

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Overview

- Use Cases for Lifelong learning
- Learning Networks for Lifelong learning
- Design for Learning Networks



Use Case I

James is a chemical engineer working for SMD. He wants to pursue a career as a water manager with the local water board. He therefore needs to update and upgrade his skills.



Use Case 2

A lawyer working for Sandex finds out he needs a more thorough understanding of the science part of the company, in particular about manufacturing pharmaca.

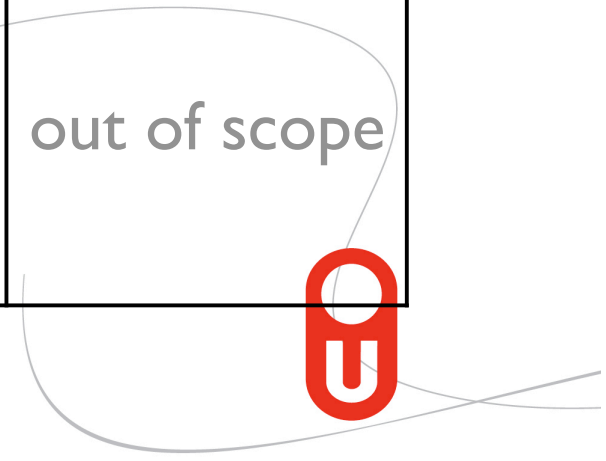


Use Case 3

A vintage motorcycle enthusiast who wants to buy a Moto Guzzi V7 from 1972 and restore it in its original grandeur. For this, she needs to learn motorcycle specific skills, which she hopes to do through a network of fellow-enthusiasts.



	formal learning	non-formal learning	informal learning
initial education	'ordinary' education	rare occasion	out of scope
post-initial education	continuous education	lifelong learning	out of scope



Demands flexibility

- Continuous education builds on the formal mode of learning
- It is ineffective for post-initial education as it cannot meet the demands for logistic, pedagogical and subject-matter flexibility



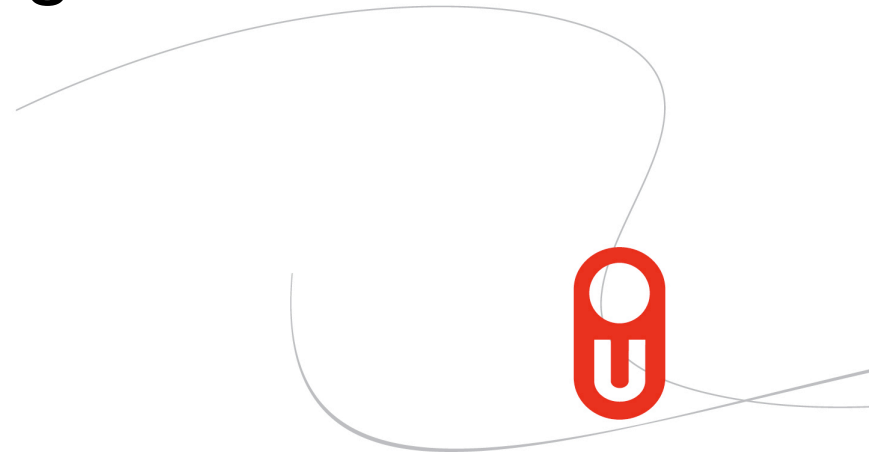
Learning Networks

- Post-initial education is best practiced in the context of Learning Networks
- A Learning Network is an online, social network **designed** to support and facilitate lifelong learning (a **learning** 'ecosystem')



Design: Competences

- Competence maps allow one to chart out achievements and ambitions in terms of competences
- Competence link learning activities to learning opportunities



Design: self-organisation

- In the context of a Learning Network, through ad-hoc transient communities a patchwork of partially overlapping communities should emerge
- Both nearby friends in the same community and distant acquaintances (friends of friends of ..) in remote communities (Granovetter's strength of weak ties)



Design: peer recommendations

- on knowledgeable experts
- on content suited to learning goals
- on collaboration opportunities
- on study progress (coaching)
- (through the use of ad-hoc transient communities)



Design: architecture

- plan I (short term): start with existing community and let it acquire learning network characteristics
- use dedicated, 'closed' infrastructure, use flexible CMS like Drupal or Moodle (must be Open Source)



Design: architecture

- plan 2 (long term): start with an existing network and foster the growth of communities with a learning focus in it
- use existing social network sites, provide services through their APIS (open social!)



Programme clusters

- Programme leader, Peter Sloep
- Approx. 35 people
- Professional development, Marcel van der Klink
- Learning Network services, Peter van Rosmalen, Francis Brouns
- Professional communities, Jan van Bruggen



Further information

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