

New web based educational environments as contexts for interaction and learning for professionals

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Project summary

In this PhD work, the focus is on professionals' engagement in and uses of web based educational environments in various forms of in-service and further education. This is an interesting area to explore for several reasons. First, it can be argued that precisely in these areas the potentials of the new technologies are especially interesting. For many professionals it is simply not possible to leave their regular work practices to participate in traditional, school-based activities that require extended physical presence. Thus, the new possibilities for integrating work and learning are interesting to explore. Second, the new technology offers possibilities also for specialized courses where people working in small and rather narrow fields can cooperate. Since physical distance no longer poses an absolute obstacle, people can participate in learning activities that are based on regional, national, and even international concepts. There are many additional points that could be made here. However, the major interest is to analyse the learning activities that evolve in these rather new contexts for learning. Expressed differently, what cultures of learning and co-operation are established in such settings?

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