



Challenging Boundaries

The role of ICT in the creation of a European higher Education Area

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Title of paper: From an e-learning to a life-long learning system: the Online Community platform of the University of Trento

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Abstract

The paper presents our experience as projectionists, developers and administrators of an e-Learning system, based on the metaphor of virtual learning communities.

The paper describes the evolution of our project from a e-learning system for the University of Trento to a new life-long learning system, connected to the learning courses of the Autonomous Province of Trento. The system originally conceived as an auxiliary instrument to blended didactics of our faculty has, subsequently, been extended to other experiences (especially to applications of life-long learning). This change has highlighted how a software system of this kind needs to manage in a different way the general organization of virtual communities.

In this scenario a critical factor is how to make accessible the portal to the disable people, like the blinds. In this part the paper introduces a panoramic of the problems that we have incurred to transform our tool in an accessible e-learning system, originally planned in order to not be. We will present the Italian legislation, and the special regulation of the Autonomous Province of Trento on the subject. Subsequently we will introduced in synthesis how we have faced the problem and how we have tried to resolved it; in particular the transformation of the menu object of the application.

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