Preface

Innovative approaches for learning and knowledge sharing are indispensable for the rapidly evolving world of knowledge and information. One of the main objectives of the EU/IST Work Program is adopting technology enhanced learning solutions to improve the efficiency and reduce the cost of learning for individuals and organizations at any given time or location. To achieve this goal, the First European Conference on Technology-Enhanced Learning (EC-TEL) provided an exciting forum for technology-enhanced learning and its relations to knowledge management, business processes and work environments, in Europe and world-wide.

Six specialized workshops were held in conjunction with the EC-TEL 2006, which brought together researchers, technology providers and professionals from all areas related to technology-enhanced learning. The workshops were supported by the Prolearn Network of Excellence, as well as a cluster of major European research projects in the area of technology-enhanced learning, such as Up2UML, LEAD, TENcompetence and Palette.

After a rigorous review process, the program committees of the EC-TEL 2006 workshops accepted 39 papers. The selected papers are full papers and position papers, describing original research results and evaluation, solutions or on-going work, according to each workshop's format. The workshops address a variety of topics:

-Blended Learning and Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises:

This workshop explores the combination of the best elements of e-Learning and traditional learning resources, as a guidance to instructors and learners in finding the best mix of learning resources. The objective is to gather input for successful blended learning courses in small and medium-sized enterprises as well as working towards a definition for "blended learning".

-Making the Future of Technology Enhanced Professional Learning: Case Studies of Individual and Group Learning:

This workshop focuses on defining the critical capabilities needed to achieve the desired futures and includes three different themes: 'personalization', 'enhancing work performance' and 'self regulated learning, creativity and innovation'.

-Exploring the Potentials of Networked Computing Support for Face-to-face Collaborative Learning:

Face-to-face communication is significant for collaboration and learning and can be supported by collaborative technologies. The papers presented in this workshop give some insights into how learners who are in the same room can be provided with the appropriate technologies that will facilitate their collaborative learning activities.

-Professional Learning, Competence Development and Knowledge Management:

This joint workshop identifies and analyzes current technological trends to support individuals, teams and organizations to develop their competences, using online distributed knowledge resources and learning activities. Adopting a learner centric

approach as well as the use of knowledge management technologies in e-Learning, the selection of papers discusses the use of social software, enabling individuals to tag content and act both as producers and consumers of content.

-*What Went Wrong with Technology Enhanced Learning:*

Conferences and workshops mostly report on success stories. However, the fields of learning, education, and training can benefit from learning from previous failures on the approach, operational problems, or the organizational context and the exchange of this (negative) knowledge. This workshop explores the reasons why certain projects did NOT achieve the originally intended outcome.

-*Technology Enhanced Learning Communities of Practice:*

This workshop investigates the multiplicity and complexity of needs of Communities of Practice during their lifecycle, exploring approaches such as multimedia information authoring and re-use, knowledge management, argumentation and negotiation, as well as the evaluation of solutions in a range of real environments.

Many thanks go to all authors who provided their contributions and to the program committees for carefully reviewing all submitted papers. We are grateful to the organizing committees for the successful preparation and realization of the workshops, involving collaborators from the following European Institutions: the National College of Ireland (Dublin, Ireland), the Experimental Institute for Software Engineering (Fraunhofer Germany), the Open University (Milton Keynes, UK), the National Center of Scientific Research 'Demokritos' (Athens, Greece), the Helsinki University of Technology (Helsinki, Finland), the University of Utrecht (Utrecht, the Netherlands), the University of Salerno (Salerno, Italy,), the German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence (Kaiserslautern, Germany), the Open University of the Netherlands (Heerlen, the Netherlands), the L3S Research Center (Hannover, Germany), the Center for Research and Technology Hellas (Thessaloniki, Greece), the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (Leuven, Belgium), the Ariadne Foundation, the University of Patras (Patras, Greece) and the Research Academic Computer Technology Institute, (Patras, Greece).

We hope that the selection of workshop papers in this volume will inspire your research with innovative ideas. We expect that this is the beginning of a series of successful workshops, which will be adopted by future technology-enhanced conferences.

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EC-TEL 2006 Workshops