



**2nd PROLEARN Doctoral Consortium
in Technology Enhanced Learning
Crete, Greece, September 18, 2007**

Preface

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In today's knowledge society, companies are aware of the crucial role that education and training, life-long learning, and knowledge management play in shaping a workforce able to strengthen its competitive position. Knowledge workers and employees are also aware of their responsibility in keeping their professional skills at the highest level. Current and emerging technologies are offering new opportunities for implementing novel pedagogical scenarios, innovative environments and customized learning content. To effectively design, implement, and manage technology to enhance professional learning requires an interdisciplinary understanding of a diversity of scientific fields such as educational sciences, human-computer interaction, information and communication technologies, as well as marketing. This is the challenge of the PROLEARN Network of Excellence funded by the European Commission in the framework of its Information Society Technology programme. PROLEARN's core mission is to bring together the key research groups, professionals, as well as other cutting-edge organizations and industrial partners working in the area of Technology Enhanced Learning (TEL). By fostering joint research, education and training, as well as professional networking, PROLEARN is establishing TEL as a new core and interdisciplinary research domain. It is also incubating a new generation of researchers and experts to be able to design and manage complex technology enhanced learning solutions for tackling the challenges of a sustainable world.

The PROLEARN Academy (www.prolearn-academy.org) is more especially dedicated to develop an institutional culture and to bond distributed researchers across Europe into one community. This goal is achieved at three main levels:

- Researchers or junior faculty members to develop and maintain PEOPLE leadership;
- Full range of research issues in TEL covered by PROLEARN working groups to develop and maintain TOPICS leadership;
- Large set of activities to develop and maintain a leading TEL COMMUNITY of researchers.

Operational since 2004, the PROLEARN Academy has successfully inaugurated an annual summer school for early stage doctoral students. The first summer school took place in Sile, Turkey, September 5 - 9, 2005. The second one took place in Bled, Slovenia, June 5 - 9, 2006. Finally, the third one took place in Fréjus, France, May 27 - June 2, 2007. All editions attracted about 130 doctoral students working in the diverse areas of TEL.

As a result of the experience with the summer schools, PROLEARN Academy wanted to create another forum for doctoral students more advanced in their thesis work and who would get personalized feedback about their research from distinguished researchers in TEL. A major conference like the EC-TEL is an excellent event for such a forum because many of these famous researchers are present. Therefore, a first Doctoral Consortium was organized at EC-TEL 2006 and, thanks to its success; reiterated this year.

For this 2007 edition, the papers were selected according to the possible benefit the doctoral students could get from their participation to the doctoral consortium in terms of refinement or consolidation of their research work.

These proceedings include 8 accepted papers. One should underline that not only these papers are important. The reviews given by the experts after the submissions and after the oral presentations constituted also essential references for the doctoral students. They not only served to improve the initial manuscripts, but also helped the doctoral students to get or keep on the right path towards their doctoral research completion.

To conclude, we would like to thank of all the doctoral students for their implication in advancing the state-of-the-art in the research field of TEL. We would like also to thank all of the reviewers whose precious time has been so instrumental in giving professional guidance to the doctoral students. We would like finally to thank the organizers of the EC-TEL for giving us the opportunity to host our Doctoral Consortium at their event. And of course, we would like to thank the PROLEARN and the PRO-LC cluster in disseminating and promoting this event, thus contributing to the institutionalization of our virtual PROLEARN Academy.

Katherine Maillet, Tomaz Klobucar, Denis Gillet, and Ralf Klamma
Doctoral Consortium Chairs
September 10, 2007

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