SEED

Seeding cultural change in the school system through the generation of communities engaged in integrated educational and technological innovation

Sowing the seeds of collaboration

Project SEED is about seeding cultural change in the school system through the generation of communities engaged in integrated educational and technological innovation. The project will develop innovative educational materials and technologies and methods for generating innovative use of IST at small scale and systemic levels.

The specific outputs will be:

a) the design of innovative activities supporting a social mode of learning in a collaborative setting, an augmented awareness of learning processes and meaning construction and autonomy and responsibility for learning;

b) the development of methods for generating integrated communities of education researchers, teachers, students and developers designing and implementing context-sensitive school-based and at the same time innovative activity;

c) the development of technologies that support authoring and scripting, collaboration, reification and reflection of learning activities, integrated learning activity, kinaesthetic and concrete representations;

d) the development of methods for using the above experience, tools and infrastructure to proliferate innovative activity in the school system. An important part of the method will be to develop a Centre for Collaboration and Exchange enabling the propagation of activities and the generation of educational communities.

Building your own learning community

The concept at the heart of SEED is to generate integrated communities (meaning teachers, students, educationalists and software developers) who will design, develop and try out a series of computer supported innovative learning activities based on clear learning objectives. Each activity will be accompanied by suggested methods for teaching and introducing the activity into schools and suggestions for the use of the software tools. Software development and authoring will adopt a component-oriented approach, extending and adapting the platform and software developed by the project partners.

The Centre for Collaboration and Exchange to be developed as part of the SEED project will support communication among all members of the integrated communities of teachers, students, researchers and software developers. The Exchange will also facilitate the spread of information about the activities of the SEED project to a wide audience of potential users and, perhaps most importantly, act as a source of support and advice for those using it.

Spreading the word

As with all projects designed to test and demonstrate innovative approaches in education, it is important to investigate how the new systems, materials and methods are working in practice and to evaluate their impacts. As part of the SEED project, a pseudo-ethnographic evaluation will be carried out to determine how the integrated communities are developing, to determine how the methods and processes developed are being implemented and to investigate the potential of the methods adopted to promote widespread propagation of the approach. The evaluation will include extensive observations made on site in the participating schools, interviews with users, exchange of experience and results between project partners and analysis of outcomes in the different schools to identify case studies of best practice methods and processes.

Project Co-ordinator
Prof. Kynigos Chronis
Computer Technology Institute
Research and Development Division
Research Unit 3
61, Riga Feraiou St
GR-26221 Patra
Tel: +30-1-3416220
Fax: +30-1-3416700
E-mail: kynigos@cti.gr
URL: http://ilios.cti.gr/seed/

Project Participants
Gerhard-Mercator-Universität Duisburg, UDUI (DE)
Université de Geneve, TECFA (CH)
0/1 Pliroforiki S.A. (EL)
University of Hull (UK)
University of Athens, School of Philosophy, Dept of Education (EL)
Scienter (IT)