HoTEL
Holistic Approach to Technology Enhanced Learning

Hosting Innovators, Rooms for Success.

Presenting the HoTEL Labs at work!

The HoTEL project, during its second year of life, is working to test its Innovation Support Model for Technology-Enhanced Learning through real-life Laboratories. Three Laboratories, the HoTE Labs, have been established under the supervision os UNIR in the Higher Education setting, of ELIG in the corporate setting and EFQUEL in the professional communities area. Each Lab has selected, out of the applications received in response to the Open Call for Innovators of summer 2013, ten "innovations", and is working to provide feedback to all of them along the HoTEL ISM guidelines. Furthermore, each Lab has selected three "Innovations" to be tested in real-life settings, engaging learners and other stakeholders. In the next months the HoTEL project will be active in promoting the findings of this work, and will be calling for experts to refine its Innovation Support Model. Specifically, we will organise an Experts Workshop in London on the 14th of March to draw some recommendations on how to improve the support scheme we are providing to the selected innovations. Then, we will pass our message to relevant decision makers in occasion of a Mainstreaming Seminar in the Committee of Regions on the 26th of March, in collaboration with the VISIR project. And, last but lot least, all this work is open for comments and improvements by any researchers, practitioner or educator interested in how to make innovation adoption smoother and faster in the field of TEL. The best way to keep in touch with the HoTEL development is through out LinkedIn group, at
http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=5044261&trk=my_groups-b-grp-v Come join us!

Fabio Nascimbeni
Email: fabio.nascimbeni@ menon.org

Open Online Consultation: How to speed up innovation

In TEL area often the timespan between the identification of technologies with some interesting potential for learning, the theoretical assessment of the pedagogical implications of its implementation, the piloting of such technologies and their adoption (initially at small scale and eventually mainstreamed) is so long that technology become outdated in comparison to the real requirements of learning situations and the innovation character of its application is lost.

The HoTEL project has launched an online consultation to gather stakeholders' views in

relation to the key factors that would speed up, enhance and support more effective innovation in TEL. The **consultation will be open until end of February, 2014** and it is available through this Link:
http://hotel-project.eu/content/how-speed-tel-innovation-line-consultation

Carmen Padron
Email: carmen.padron@
atosresearch.eu

Introducing some of the Innovations to be practically implemented in our Exploratorium Lab

The A4Learning project applies visual analytics techniques to provide students with self-awareness and group awareness. The project focuses on the development of a visualization technique that, when shown to students, allows them to estimate their learning performance and foresee their outcome in the course by comparing themselves with other students from the same course.

The tool developed by A4Learning – mathematically back-grounded on similarity metrics and other data mining techniques – will be used in online distance learning, where students usually lack of direct contact with peers and therefore cannot compare themselves with peers. That is to say that similarity with other students will be presented in a visual way, so the students will be able to determine who their behaviour-alike peers are, and how they are performing. This way, A4Learning will reduce the distance gap that typically arises in distance learning, and therefore will promote a more effective learning environment.
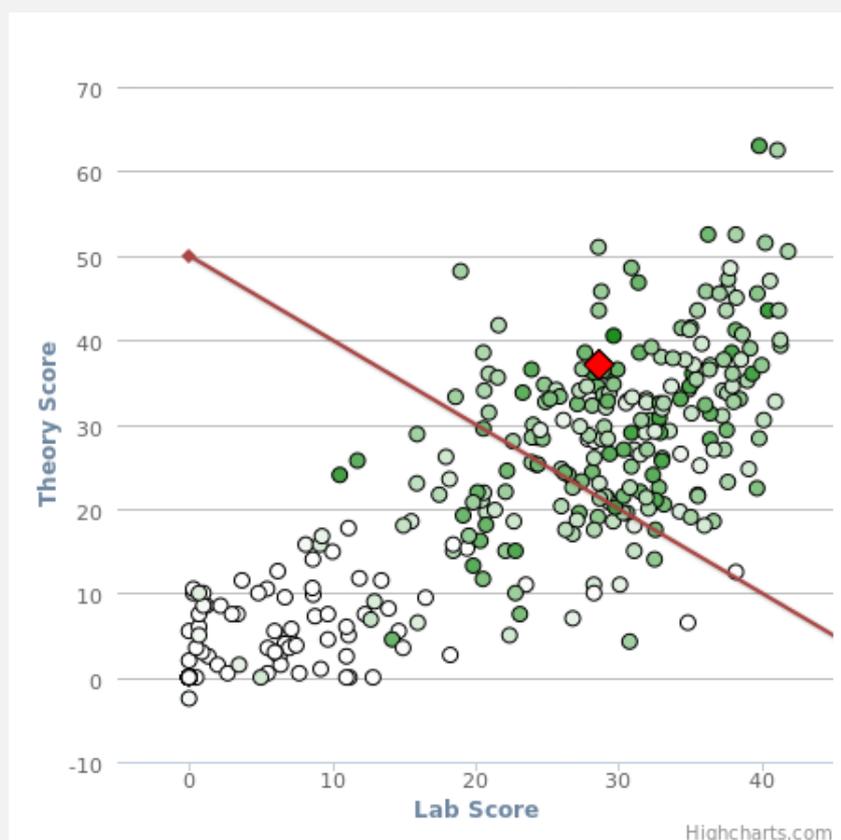
The awareness provided by A4Learning is especially meaningful in online distant scenarios, but is also applicable in other contexts such as blended learning or face to face learning with electronic delivery of contents. The level of awareness provided by A4Learning is a step forward in the use of visual analytics in the educational context, and provides a clear added-value on the encouragement of meta-cognitive skills, such as self-reflection.

HoTEL will support A4Learning through its practical implementation in UNIR Higher Education Lab, by theoretically assessing the usability, understandability and effectiveness of the tool, and validating the A4Learning prototype in pilot programs, and expert workshops in authentic learning scenarios, and this, with real users from the University Community (teachers, students and tutors).
http://research.unir.net

Luis de-la-Fuente-Valentín
Email: research@unir.net

Free/Open Learnovation Lab: Supporting Grassroots Innovators from the field of Education and Technology

…brought to you by the European Learning Industry Group.

From beginning of February until the end of June 2014 Grassroots Innovators from the Education field can benefit from Free/Open Learnovation Lab sessions that are organized in the wider Porto area. Weekly Learnovation Lab sessions will provide free support and coaching to scout bottom-up innovative uses of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for learning and to support grassroots innovators. The precise date for the Learnovation Lab sessions will be available at this side

The weekly Learnovation Lab sessions will provide an innovation-friendly environment to build on the ideas, suggestions, experiences collected and presented by the Lab participants. A special focus will be on ICT and supportive methodologies and strategies for better education products and services, including supportive learning and teaching practices. The Lab will thus provide a space to discuss, analyse, explore new ways of using ICT for learning in practice, and to foster our understanding on how innovative cases might be replicated, mainstreamed, transferred or sustained.

The Learnovation Lab sessions are supported by the European Union funded HoTEL project on "HOlistic approaches to Technology Enhanced Learning", that aims at optimizing innovation support in education and Technology Enhanced Learning. The Learnovation Lab sessions are organized by the European Learning Industry Group so to assure that support and coaching will be offered by a range of experts from academia and the learning industry, and using internationally known innovation support models and established industry analytical frameworks, such as the Pearson Efficacy Framework. To learn more about the dates, times and participation opportunities for the forthcoming Learnovation Lab sessions please take a look at this page.
http://www.lab4ed.pt
We hope you'll take this opportunity to improve your work through an innovative learning.

Dr. Andreas Meiszner
Email: andreas.meiszner@elig.org

Dr. Ana Melro
Email: ana.melro@scio.pt

Mr. André Malho
Email: andre.malho@scio.pt

How to Guide Innovation in a Changing Education Ecosystem?

As part of the Learning@Work Exploratorium Lab that is run by the European Learning Industry Group (ELIG) within the FP7 funded HoTEL research project we have been running a joint ELIG / Pearson interactive Learnshop that aimed at critically reflecting on how to innovate in a profoundly changing education ecosystem.

A key focus on this Learnshop had been to further advance on the question of how the Pearson efficacy framework might be best scoped, structured and contextualized [e.g. as a part of a larger model] so as to foster its usefulness and applicability as a tool to support TEL for individuals / institutions, through the practical application of the framework with real-life 'cases'

For attendees the Learnshop provided an opportunity to acquaint themselves with the Pearson efficacy framework as a tool to engender learning-focused discussions when assessing and evaluating prospective innovations. With this participants were asked to examine their own 'case', or a sample case, through the lens of a rigorous and structured framework, providing the participant key takeaways at both the transversal and individual case level. The Learnshop thus allowed for an initial evaluating how the Pearson efficacy framework might be applied as a support model to be incorporated into future iterative decisions of the holistic model. The response from participants had been overall positive and encouraging! The ELIG Learning@Work Exploratorium Lab will therefore draw further on the Pearson Efficacy Framework as a means to use it within the currently ongoing theoretical and practical assessments – including the Free/Open Learnovation Lab sessions that we intend to organize in the wider Porto area!

If you want to learn more about the Pearson Efficacy Framework, the sessions that we have been running so far, or the FP7 funded HoTEL research project please be invited to take a look at:
http://efficacy.pearson.com/
http://www.slideshare.net/andreasmeiszner/hotel-oep-elig-pearson-learnshop-part-2
http://hotel-project.eu/

Partners