

EdutheK: Empowering Education

Learning Impact Award Nomination 2014

This paper introduces EdutheK, which is Austria's first LTI-based marketplace solution for both, learning content and tools. Launched by Austria's Ministry of Education in collaboration with Knowledge Markets in fall 2013, EdutheK seamlessly integrates with Austria's leading learning management systems, LMS and Edumoodle.

That's why EdutheK has the potential to serve more than 2,000 – out of 6,600 – schools in the country. EdutheK started with about 400 high-quality learning resources in its pilot year, stemming from 5 different providers. Although still in beta stage more than 1,000 teachers have already used the marketplace leading to more than 15,000 transactions.

Throughout the last years policy makers such as the Austrian Ministry of Education particularly emphasized the introduction of learning outcome orientation. By defining competency models and accompanying assessments the ministry aims to further improve the quality of Austria's educational system. However, the question is how to efficiently distribute all the relevant content in a highly dispersed environment such as the Austrian school system?

At the same time Austria's publishers are confronted with a similar problem. Their answer: highly sophisticated websites based on content management solutions. But, why not connecting those systems with the pedagogical tools LMS and Edumoodle?

While policy makers and publishers struggle to find efficient and effective ways into the virtual classrooms, teachers struggle with collecting content from heterogeneous sources and combining them in their learning management system of choice. So far they have not been successful so they need to send their students to various web sites where they need to re-register again and re-connect with each other in yet another virtual representation of their physical classroom.

Now, with EdutheK, learning content and tools seamlessly integrate with Austria's leading learning management systems. EdutheK provides a marketplace solution that has been strongly inspired by IMS' LTI initiative. The LTI standard is used when it comes to integrating the marketplace with learning management systems, but also when it comes to connecting the market place with provisioning systems of publishers.

For policy makers EdutheK plays a crucial role by providing resources that support teachers in measuring students' attainment of a certain learning outcome. For publishers the new marketing channel EdutheK constitutes a new quality in providing content and tools while saving costs by replacing proprietary solutions at the same time.

Teachers and students benefit from highly relevant, but at the same time quality assured content and tools that can be brought to their learning management system of choice with just a few clicks.

EdutheK enables a new quality in ICT-mediated K-12 education by providing direct access to high quality content and tools. For example, the Ministry-led, learning outcome oriented content provided in EdutheK supports students in preparing for nation-wide final diploma exams that are about to assess key competencies in subject domains such as mathematics and languages.

To summarize: EdutheK allows policy makers and publishers to bring free and commercial content to the "virtual home" of school organizations and offers an easy and quick way for teachers and students to access high-quality learning resources. With EdutheK everybody wins.