

Press release, November 27, 2006

Kaleidoscope Launches World's First International Open Archive for Research on Technology-supported Learning

Grenoble. The Kaleidoscope Network of Excellence has just launched TeLearn at www.telearn.org, the world's first internationally available Open Archive for technology-enhanced learning. TeLearn takes research results from across Europe drawn from diverse and converging disciplines such as computer, social and education sciences and puts them in one place. This contributes to one of the overarching drivers of Kaleidoscope – to reduce duplication, so shaping the scientific evolution of the field.

TeLearn will benefit not only researchers, but also teachers, policy makers and the public, offering insight into up-to-date research in the field of ICT-supported learning. Dr. Nicolas Balacheff, scientific manager of the Kaleidoscope Network sees the establishment of the Open Archive TeLearn as an important contribution to the further development of research in the field. "Thanks to TeLearn, scientists from extremely diverse fields have the opportunity for easy access to current research on this topic at any time", explains Balacheff. "This will make research more transparent and more effective." Furthermore, the systematic archiving of scientific works, which will make possible the direct comparison of results, will stimulate scientific competition in a positive way.

The TeLearn archive accepts material in any language, and the resources found here include not only publications, but also audio and video presentations. Users can search, browse and submit by date, author and content. Moreover, the materials uploaded to TeLearn are fixed with such specific information as date of publication, ownership and content, thereby protecting the intellectual property rights of researchers. In the longer term, TeLearn will be established as a sustainable service with necessary supporting infrastructure required to support the needs and concerns of researchers and publishers.

According to Dr. Balcheff, the free availability of the research offers even further advantages. For example, the open archive on technology-supported learning can help bring the research more prominently into the view of decision makers and the public. "TeLearn can give a new boost to cooperation between science and industry", Balacheff adds.

At Online Educa Berlin, Dr. Balacheff will be presenting TeLearn in the plenary session "Strengthening the Links between Practitioners and Researchers in the Field of E-Learning" on Friday, December 1, 2006, from 9:00 – 11:00 hrs.

The Kaleidoscope network will be presented at the exhibition accompanying the conference. Researchers from the network will showcase a selection of outstanding projects throughout Thursday and Friday at the stand B53 in the Foyer Potsdam.

About Kaleidoscope

Kaleidoscope is the European research network shaping the scientific evolution of technology enhanced learning. It integrates the leading research teams in the field, who work collaboratively across educational, computer and social sciences to transform the quality and reach of the learning experience. Kaleidoscope fosters innovation and creativity through the development of new technologies, methodologies and concepts, defining the challenges and solutions for interdisciplinary research.

Kaleidoscope's goal is to inform knowledge transfer between education, industry, and the wider society. Through its scientific programme, Kaleidoscope is helping to build a dynamic knowledge-based economy for Europe, engaging with social, economic and political stakeholders at all levels. Kaleidoscope is supported by the European Community under the Information Society Technologies priority of the 6th Framework Programme. www.no-kaleidoscope.org