The PLE Conference Workshop Proposal

Collaborative Mind Mapping (BYOL): Let's work on a definition of the PLE concept together!

Background

Amidst all the different conceptualizations of Personal Learning Environments a comprehensive **definition of what PLE is and how it can support learning**, is still missing. The scope of the term stretches from technical solutions, through philosophical approaches to didactical design principles. The perception of what comprises a PLE is ever-emerging due to ongoing technological advances and innovative applications. Additionally, different types of PLEs, such as mobile PLEs (mPLEs), adaptable PLEs (aPLEs) or 3D PLEs as well as neighboring concepts, such as Personal Learning Networks (PLNs) or Personal Working and Learning Environments (PWLEs) are emerging and require a conceptual localization. Given this abundance there is a need to integrate the various aspects of PLEs into a comprehensive concept.

Aims

The aim of this collaborative mind mapping session will be to create a comprehensive mind map of the PLE concept considering four perspectives, i.e. **(1) technology, (2) content, (3) pedagogy** and **(4) social interaction**. The aim is to integrate different aspects, types of PLEs and neighboring concepts in a comprehensive definition of Personal Learning Environments. In this way different perspectives of the PLE conference participants can be bundled together in one collective mind map.

Format

The format of the session will be **collaborative mind mapping with elements of BYOL** (bring your own laptop). An initial mind map with main branches will be set up as a starting point using **mindmeister** software. Participants will have set up their mindmeister accounts prior to the workshop and bring their own laptops to the workshop to be able to work on the map. During the workshop participants will be divided into five groups each working on one main branch of the PLE mind map. Each group will be supported by a different moderator. In order to create a continuous thread of dialogue and to encourage sharing of ideas, moderators will actively stimulate knowledge exchange in the group. At the end of the session, key points will be discussed in the whole group und connections between different aspects established on the map.

Impact

The created collective mind map of the PLE concept will be available online for further **refinement** after the conference and will be presented to the **scientific community** as the outcome of the PLE conference. In this way the **mainstreaming** of the PLE concept will be actively supported.