

8th International ILIAS Conference

Didactics and Methods workshop

Summary and future plans

written by Antónia Szász (workshop leader)

On November 13, 2009, participants were welcome to a collaborative discussion for summarizing experiences, highlighting new trends and searching for new possibilities. Topics of the workshop were learning support, competence development, e-didactics, collaborative learning, e-learning 2.0, maintaining and rekindling motivation to learn, new roles and activities, problem solving in e-learning environments.

In her opening presentation, Antónia Szász (DGAU) demonstrated the necessity and the possibilities of the differentiated teaching and learning process in e-learning and blended learning. She argued that in different training and educational systems, for students with diverse background and motivation preferring different learning styles, there is a need for differentiated support in the new learning environment as well. The methodologically established e-teacher activities with broadening services of ILIAS could develop students' competencies in various forms, new learning styles and strategies, knowledge acquisition styles, with supporting individual and facilitate collaborative learning. Antónia Szász showed some examples how didactic aspects appear in ILIAS developments. Consequently, new methods and new technological developments could constructively intensify each other and improve the quality of the learning and training process.

Edina Krisko (DGAU) spoke about the didactical aspects of web 2.0 tools and reviewed her experience with ILIAS wiki. She facilitated a short discussion with participants including a group of students about the usage and popularity of second generation web applications in their private life and informal communication, respectively in educational context. She pointed out that web 2.0 applications are based on communities, focused on collaboration and claim place in education. Participation- and interaction-based content management and content sharing are considered as a new quality of the knowledge and the knowledge-

communities. In educational and training fields, web 2.0 obviously will change the roles of teachers and students, and the conception of the source of knowledge with the conception of the knowledge transfer or knowledge sharing.

Gábor Erdélyi (ETI: Institute for Basic and Continuing Education of Health Workers; InterOktat) introduced ETI experience with supporting adult health care learners in the ILIAS framework system. Since 2006 the Institute for Basic and Continuing Education of Health Workers give supporting service for all their learners (~1.000 student/year) via e-learning. Although there are huge differences in the use of e-learning support, it seems to be very useful. Tutors can easily follow the progress of the students and give them all useful information in ILIAS. Gábor Erdélyi showed the structure and the contents of the repository, and then gave an insight into their principles and methodology.

Attila Budai (DGAU, leader of ILIAS project) found the didactical aspects very important and suggested to collect and publish the experiences. Gábor Erdélyi pointed out that it would be a great and serious task. Antonia Szász proposed to form a working group within the ILIAS Hungary community. She took up the creation of a “Methodological Group” object and the coordination of working group activities in ILIAS. This could be the basis and a good opportunity to collect and discuss didactical and methodological best practices, problems and brainchildren as well.

On November 17, 2009, we chose the name for the working group: *M.E.N.T.A. Methodological Group*. The word *menta* means *menthe*. It suggests freshness. We hope it will describe us and our collaborative working well. In the characters of M.E.N.T.A appear the initials of many things important for us.

M like módszer (quality), methodology, motivation, multiplier effect

E like e-learning, e-pedagogy, effectivity

N like naprakészség (up-to-date), novelty, non-formal ways and methods


T like teaching, tutoring, tanulás (learning), távoktatás, távtanulás (distance education/ learning)

A like application, alkotás (creation), accessibility

We find community, common activity, cooperation and collaboration important and valuable, so we would like to further and to support them in the M.E.N.T.A Methodological Group.

M.E.N.T.A. Methodological Group is created in order to make a framework and an opportunity for compiling and discussing our ideas and methodological experiences. We would like to achieve our plans with using ILIAS services and objects:

- providing a forum for questions, councils, brainchildren;
- publishing good practices;
- sharing files, articles, web sources;
- researching interesting topics, formulating and publishing the results in a collaborative manner (ex. via ILIAS wiki);
- recommending course events (ex. online discussion, conferences, workshops);
- managing projects.

Today there is already a  M.E.N.T.A. group object in ILIAS with a M.E.N.T.A. forum, web source collections of useful homepages and important articles. Furthermore a course announcement draws attention to the 3rd *Digital Equal Opportunity!* conference with the following proposition:

“How can the digital equal opportunity be furthered at macro and micro level? What can we do in our institution? Let us gather and discuss our experiences and ideas!”

Budapest, 18 November 2009.