IMCL 2009 - 4TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INTERACTIVE MOBILE AND COMPUTER AIDED LEARNING
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The 4th edition of the International Conference on Interactive Mobile and Computer Aided Learning, organized under the umbrella of the International Association of Online Engineering, has provided a critical forum for the implementation of technologies and mobile applications in education, business and governments. The Princess Sumaya University that hosted the event, has played a crucial role in the debate concerning the potential benefits of portable devices. Teachers and researchers coming from more than 15 countries like Asia, Europe, America, Australia and Africa have exchanged good practices and case studies on theory and pedagogy of m-learning, instructional design and innovative solutions for interactive learning and teaching.

The different perspectives coming from the represented countries has lead to important conclusions about the newest state of art of digital technologies in university education. MEDA countries are called upon to respond to the new challenges coming from the global economy, by supporting the achievement of sustainable knowledge and skills through the integration of ICT into the educational and professional sector. In this regard, the project "Harnessing New Technologies for Quality Teaching and Learning in the MEDA Region" of the European Training Foundation, promotes the improvement of the training teachers system of the area, through the implementation of specific online programs on web-based courses design and management. The teaching and learning of scientific subjects has been also one of the main themes of the conference that has provided a global view of the latest technologies impact on students involvement and self-assessment. In this context the new opportunities coming from the integration of portable devices, adaptive systems and web-based technologies into the traditional learning environment has been underlined thanks to the presentation of successful projects and case studies. The MATHS.SE project "Web Based University Courses in International Collaboration" of the Royal Institute of Technology of Stockholm, promotes the creation of international communities of practice

for students engaged in the study of science and technology, by developing six pre-graduate multidisciplinary and interactive courses providing basic knowledge on mathematic, physic, engineering, chemistry and mechanic.

Problem based learning, simulations and rule games are the central focus of MareMonstrum, a project realized by the University Complutense of Madrid with the aim of favouring the active involvement of students in the acquisition of technical knowledge and skills in the field of engineering.

The debate on ICT technologies and mobile applications has highlighted the new opportunities coming from the use of innovative interactive environment and tools like Wikis, considered as new spaces for enhancing students motivation, involvement and learning experience. An example of excellence in the field is the project "The Technology Enhanced Campus" of the University of Durham - Uk, which foster the use of mobile technologies for promoting a more active participation to the Campus life through the improvement of the information and communication services addressed to the students. The open source system GPS (Global Positioning System) gives the students detailed information concerning the cultural, social and recreational activities of the Campus, indicating also the exact localization of people, offices, services and buildings.

Terry Anderson, professor and Canada Research Chair in Distance Education at Athabasca University, has confirmed the importance of the new digital tools like wikis, blogs, social tagging, web conferences and second life to favour a social constructivist approach, where communication and interaction play a crucial role in the construction of personalized learning path.

The IMCL conference has offered the opportunity to share cooperation and development processes among the different geographical areas, through the presentation of strategies, projects and activities addressed to the improvement of universities and private sector capacity building. In this framework a specific session has been dedicated to the Università degli Studi Marconi, to the research results achieved on new performance and applications of digital technologies and to the GUIDE Association cooperation strategies for Africa and Middle-East.