



TEN Competence

Building The European Network for Lifelong Competence Development

TENCompetence is a 4-year EU-funded Integrated IST-TEL project that will develop a technical and organisational infrastructure for lifelong competence development.

The infrastructure will use open-source, standards-based, sustainable and innovative technology. With this freely available infrastructure the European Union aims to boost the European ambitions of the Knowledge Society, by providing all European citizens, SMEs and other organisations easy access to facilities that enable the lifelong development of competencies and expertise in the various occupations and fields of knowledge.

Overall aim ■

"TENCompetence will support individuals, groups and organisations in Europe in lifelong competence development by establishing the most appropriate technical and organisational infrastructure, using open-source standards-based, sustainable and innovative technology"

The TENCompetence infrastructure will support the creation and management of networks of individuals, teams and organisations in Europe who are actively involved in the various occupations and domains of knowledge. These 'learning networks' will support the lifelong competency development of the participants from the basic levels of proficiency up to the highest levels of excellence. The network consists of learners, educational institutes, libraries, publishers, domain specific vendors, employers, associations, and all others who deliver services or products in the specific field.

The learning networks include:

- competency frameworks for the different occupations/fields of knowledge
- formal as well as informal learning facilities, including the sharing of knowledge, learning activities, units of learning and learning programmes
- the learning of individuals as well as of teams and organisations
- all levels of learning: primary, secondary and tertiary education, adult and company training and other forms of informal learning
- social exchange mechanisms to stimulate the exchange, sharing and support between the individuals, teams and organisations within the network.

"Everyone's learning is integrated into work and other life contexts, both formal and informal and thus lifelong."



■ Open source software

Project leader, Rob Koper, Open Universiteit Nederland:

" At this moment there is no integrated and user-friendly open source solution that supports all aspects of lifelong learning. In the TENCompetence project we will integrate the existing open source software into a single infrastructure, and we will develop new applications to complete or to replace existing software that is not suitable for this specific infrastructure."

Activities of the project ■

The project will:

- develop new innovative pedagogical approaches, assessment models and organisational models for lifelong competence development;
- develop **software** for the effective support of users who create, store, use and exchange knowledge resources, learning activities, units of learning and competence development programmes within a learning network;
- integrate isolated models and tools for competence development into a common, easy to use **infrastructure**;
- run **pilots**, at least in the field of digital cinema, health care, water management and lifelong learning cities, to ensure the validity and viability of the approach;
- deliver **training programs** to learn users how to work with the infrastructure, and to train instructors and companies (specifically SMEs) to deliver services using the infrastructure;
- build a growing **network** of associated partners to ensure large-scale use in Europe.

*"The project will contribute to existing and new Learning Technology specifications and standards;
it will develop at least three new specifications in the field of competencies, assessment and collaboration services."*

Partners ■

The project involves 13 partners from 9 different countries.

- Open Universiteit Nederland / Educational Technology Expertise Centre (project leader), the Netherlands
- Altran (Software de base), Spain
- LogicaCMG, the Netherlands
- Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Spain
- GIUNTI Interactive Labs, Italy
- Centre for Research and Technology, Greece
- Universität Hannover, Germany
- INSEAD (Institut Européen d'Administration Des Affaires), France
- The University of Bolton / representing The JISC, England
- Universiteit van Amsterdam, the Netherlands
- Sofia University, Bulgaria
- SURF, the Netherlands
- Synergetics, Belgium

More information on the project: www.tencompetence.org

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