The SupSys project: Supportive systems for continuous and online professional development

Purpose

The purpose of the SupSys project is to develop, on a European basis, a system for streamlining companies and businesses that procedurally support professional groups’ continuous qualification development where qualification represents a combination of knowledge, skill, and competence.

Due to the development of social media and online environments, educational systems’ content and form change. At the same time, demands for the individual professional to keep him- or herself continually updated and employable are on the increase. We develop an alternative to established education and forms of training in the shape of a Supportive System.

Even today, new forms of social media and online environments are constituting such supportive systems for individual learning – but could be developed using institutional input. System development whereby individuals’ qualifications can be developed qualitatively and enduringly can guide and make things easier for people who are consciously aspiring to enhance their competence and proficiency through informal ways of working in online environments.

SupSys will be the development of modern online environments where the qualifications of professionals are continuously being developed qualitatively, enduringly, and with progression. This will guide and facilitate professionally active individuals who are consciously aspiring to enhance their competence and skills through informal ways of working. This will lead to increased operational effectiveness which will in turn lead to increased competitiveness.

In the project, we show how such an online support system differs from previous educational forms, putting forward a supportive system.

Outline

The interwoven individual development processes taking place in an online environment have a special characterization which constitutes an essential prerequisite for developing a supportive system. We highlight 4 differences between formal educational systems and Supportive Systems which have to be taken into account in order to design a system rooted in online environments and social media. These differences are; 1) From pre-produced to user-
generated content, 2) from individual subject motives to joint qualification interests, 3) from limited duration to continuous and enduring activity, 4) from subject and thematic areas to a broad perspective on the participants’ skills.

On the basis of the four prerequisites, some fundamental features of a supportive system are outlined. The system is based on existing forms of online environment but which are further developed and supported methodically and systematically. A Supportive System can consist of a combination of individual PLEs (Personal Learning Environments) which are coordinated via a shared Online Learning Communities (OLC) or PLN (Personal Learning Network). A developed methodology based on circular ways of working supports processes in the various media and works towards progressing the individual’s development.

**Information**
For further information on the requirements for SupSys please see article in www.elearningeuropa.info:
*Supportive systems for continuous and online professional development*

and the Group SupSys in LinkedIn
http://linkd.in/supsys

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