



Core Research Area: Connection between Formal and Informal Learning

Both formal and informal learning experiences are essential in modern knowledge society. However, transfer between formal learning environments, like school, and informal learning environments, like online communities or museums, are still quite rare. On the one hand, informal learning does not (yet) have a place in many formal settings, even though learners are continuously connected. On the other hand, the transition between formal learning (e.g. university education) and informal learning settings (e.g. the workplace) is often poor.

How can digital technologies be used to support the two-way knowledge exchange between out-of-school learning and in-school learning? In this context, one challenge for TEL research lies in creating, for example, learning arrangements that link classes with existing online-communities, or make use of the learners' special expertise which they have with regard to their hobbies. Possible future solutions in this area include making personal technology aware of these different contexts, and making artefacts transferable between them. Another particular research challenge concerns the assessment of learners' competences across contexts, and the formal accreditation of competences acquired in informal learning settings.

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