

Using Wireless Technologies for Context Sensitive Education and Training

The Using Wireless Technologies for Context Sensitive Education and Training (CONTSENS) European Commission Lifelong Learning Programme project is working in the new field of producing mobile learning courseware that is location based and context sensitive.

Location-aware courseware uses systems and tools that are able to detect the exact physical location of a mobile device. For example, if a learner is standing in front of a painting by a well known painter in an art gallery, the location-aware system can offer to transfer information on the painting and the artist.

Context-sensitive courseware is aware of the activities of learners and can thus offer to give assistance. For example, if a student's course work is due, the context-sensitive system can send a message giving the location of resources that may help with an assignment.

The CONTSENS project has broken new ground by producing a portfolio of 16 courses with location-based and context-sensitive characteristics. These courses push the fields of education and training into new areas that other forms of education: face-to-face classes, distance education or e-learning, cannot do or cannot do as well as mobile learning.

The purposes of these developments are:

- To provide mobile learning courses that Vocational Education and Training students can study and learn from
- To demonstrate the nature of context-sensitive and location-based courseware
- To act as models for courses by other European Union institutions.

These courses are in the four fields of on-the-job training, museum and tourism education, mobile learning and language learning. There are four courses in each of these four subject areas.

These courses have been developed by the partners

- Ericsson Education Ireland
- Giunti Labs s.r.l., Sestri Levante, Italy
- Corvinno Technology Transfer Centre, Budapest, Hungary
- University of Plovdiv, Bulgaria
- London Metropolitan University, United Kingdom

The four courses for on-the-job training are

- RNC3810 Troubleshooting, an advanced telecommunications course (Ericsson, Ireland)
- The Training of Urban Professionals (London Metropolitan University, United Kingdom)
- Urban Architecture of Budapest: Door Handles (Corvinno, Hungary)
- Analogue Electronics (Plovdiv University, Bulgaria)

The four courses for tourism, art gallery, museum or botanical gardens education are

- Dun Laoghaire East Pier Tour (Ericsson, Ireland)
- Cultural Heritage (London Metropolitan University, United Kingdom)
- Urban Architecture of Budapest, Fountains (Corvinno, Hungary)

- Historical Plovdiv (Plovdiv University, Bulgaria).

The four courses for mobile learning are

- RB5 Troubleshooting, an advanced level telecommunications course (Ericsson, Ireland)
- Study Skills (London Metropolitan University, United Kingdom)
- Artificial Intelligence in Everyday Life (Corvinno, Hungary)
- Information Technology (Plovdiv University, Bulgaria)

The four courses for language learning are

- English as a Second Language (Ericsson, Ireland)
- Language learning skills (London Metropolitan University, United Kingdom)
- Language learning skills (Corvinno, Hungary)
- German for Beginners (Plovdiv University, Bulgaria).

All these courses are available for analysis and use on the project website at

http://www.ericsson.com/ericsson/corpinfo/programs/using_wireless_technologies_for_context_sensitive_education_and_training/products.shtml