Social network sites
in lifelong learning

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Overview

• Learning Networks
• Social network sites
  – Survey
  – Results

• But first, our team
Who are we

• Open Universiteit Nederland
• CELSTEC: Centre for Learning Sciences and Technologies
• Learning Networks Programme
Open Universiteit Nederland

• Innovative distance education
• Lifelong learning:
  – Learner centre stage
  – Knowledge society
CELSTEC

- Centre of Excellence
- 3 research programmes
- Master Learning Sciences
Learning Networks

• Lifelong learning
• Non-formal
• Online, social network, designed to support and facilitate lifelong learning
Designing Learning Networks

- Self-organisation: ad-hoc transient communities
- Peer support services
- Architecture
What makes a community tick?

• Social space
• Member characteristics
• Community characteristics
¿ this way ?

? this way ?
Where to start from?

• Add learning characteristics to existing community
• Add community characteristics to existing networks
  – Use existing social network sites
  – Add services
Looking for

- Features
- Functionality
- User expectations
- Reasons to use
- Affordances learning network
Survey

- General background
- Visited sites (general, professional, special interest, hobby, matching, learning)
- Registered sites (reasons, characteristics, roles, use)
- General perception
- Profiling affordances
- Affordances for learning networks
Visited SNS

- Plaxo
- Youtube
- LinkedIn
- Flickr
- del.icio.us
- Picasa
- Hyves
- Facebook
- Myspace
- school
- bank
Registered SNS

- del.icio.us
- Plaxo
- LinkedIn
- Hyves
- Facebook
Social aspects

- Invited by others
- Keeping in touch
- Meeting new people
- Add contacts
- Browse other people contacts
- Create personal profile
Entice to join

- Experts
- Quality of learning material
- Learning support
- Openness
Develop competences

- Learning material
- Competence description
- Identify and contact teachers, experts, peers
Motivate to learn

- Clear expectations
- Ease of use
- Progress indicator
- Assessment
- Social aspects
- Personal benefit
Learner support

- Question answering: 25%
- Assessment: 5%
- Collaboration: 21%
- Feedback: 22%
- Advice: 19%
- I don't know: 3%
- Other: 5%
Social support

Combination: 71%
Service suggests: 4%
Choose from a list: 7%
Other: 14%
Don't know: 4%
Summing up

• Lots of interest in SNS
• Social aspects most important:
  – Identify
  – Qualify
• Learning material
  – Identify
  – Qualify
Summing up

• Learning Networks
  – Re-use existing SNS
  – Mashup
  – Additional learner support services
Further information

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