

"Virtual Mobility and Work Based Learning"

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Abstract:

For business students, the importance of gaining experience through business practice is paramount. Usually, students in a distance education system have got a job, which they want to keep during their study period. They also want to maintain the ability for implementing what is learned, in order to increase productivity and the quality of work. For this purpose, the inclusion of work based learning methods in the pedagogical model is a must. These methods are particularly fitted in life long learning education, however there is a problem that often arises in this situation: The student is very much engaged in a routine work in his/her job, which sometimes is a real obstacle for implementing new methods and procedures inducing innovation. The student needs to experience the implementation of new methods and procedures for improving work in a different environment, where they are already successfully being used. In this paper we explore ways and means of using virtual mobility to successfully overcome these situation, without forcing the student to change his/her place of work.

Several pedagogical models have been implemented, which consider the possibility for the student to belong in a virtual group project with a well defined work protocol. In another model the student would work alone in a placement situation with virtual training possibilities by a supervisor. Other types of pedagogical models have also been implemented. The discussion of its advantages and disadvantages is shown in this paper.