

Research Project SMELL

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The market-oriented R&D project SMELL will prototype a collaborative eLearning software system, adjusted to the needs of mobile and nomadic workers, primarily targeted at SMEs. SMELL will successfully incorporate small learning steps into everyday duties of employees right at their working (portable) desks. It will integrate with workflow management systems and use new generation mobile devices to make learning at work personalized, context-aware and task-related.

SMELL builds on the MicroLearning approach (learning with small units and many repetitions), Learning Objects (self-contained, metadata tagged, reusable elearning units served in a personalized, task-related way) and Computer-Supported Collaborative Learning (CSCL) to use computer-aided collaborative filtering and peer's feedback to leverage corporate learning and ensure sustainability. SMELL will accommodate SMEs requirements and enable task-related delivery and agile management of eLearning content, user-adaptation, collaborative learning, learning in a mobile work environment, integrity of a long-term learning process of an employee.

SMELL will plug into a Business Process Management (BPM) system of the client, which will allow it to integrate with the user workflow and provide learning content in a task-focused manner. It will offer relevant LOs to the user running a particular business process. User adaptation will be primarily achieved by integrating with individual work processes and keeping track of past interactions with the system. A system-mediated reuse-and-refine loop utilizing user and expert feedback will be implemented to constantly generate and improve corporate learning content.

SMELL will investigate new generations of popular mobile devices (e.g. Apple iPad, ebook readers, smart phones) and their usage in professional scenarios. SMELL will develop concepts and interfaces to use these devices for collaborative corporate learning. It will integrate an assessment module to track the learning progress of users as to structure the ad hoc delivery of learning content into a coherent learning process. A Smart Client will serve Learning Cards (MicroLearning Objects) consisting of questions and answers based on provided key words.

SMELL increases the innovation capabilities of the SME partners and seizes the identified market opportunity for an agile eLearning solution tailored to the needs of SMEs that recognise that proper learning policies integrated with everyday duties of their employees are the best strategy for delivering superior service quality to their customers.

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