

Microlearning: an emerging field in science (Foreword)

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I had already the pleasure and the chance to witness the starting of this conference series on microlearning last year. It is always extremely exciting to observe the emergence of a new field in science, in this special case a new field due to the interaction between science, technology and our modern communication society. I was impressed by the contents of the first conference and in particular by the conference proceedings, which to my great pleasure were published in our university publishing house, called IUP (Innsbruck University Press).

Thus our special thanks go to those who brought this important conference series in the field of microlearning to Innsbruck. Clearly we have to thank Prof. Peter Bruck, head of the ARC Research Studios. The ARC Research Studios are a success story in themselves. They are enhancing the Austrian innovative and competitive ability in the area of information and communication technology. The collaboration between the Austrian Research Studios and the Leopold-Franzens-Universität Innsbruck (LFUI) has already generated innovative and competitive research results, which have had an impact on the national and international scientific community; incidentally not only in the area of information technology but also in the field of biotechnology.

Secondly, let me thank Prof. Theo Hug, Associate Professor and member of the successful faculty and institute of education at the LFUI and at the same time Head of the ARC Research Studio eLearning Environments. The studio is an important research centre for the LFUI in terms of generating new knowledge in the field of microlearning. Moreover Prof. Theo Hug was initiating and is now coordinating the new research network "Innsbruck Media Studies (IMS)". This future platform of excellence has the goal to enlarge competences in the field of new media at all levels of the University, includ-

ing our research and teaching activities. Recently, some of these activities have been presented in the frame of a successful LFUI Media-day workshop, demonstrating the plethora of e-based research and teaching activities at the LFUI. Thanks to all of these activities of Prof. Theo Hug and colleagues at the LFUI today's conference (the second in a row of international conferences on microlearning) is taking place here in Innsbruck and I take this fact also as a sign of recognition of the successful work of the media studies community in Innsbruck.

Last but not least, I have the pleasure to welcome all the keynote speakers attending this conference coming from various countries in Europe and from outside of Europe. Let me thank you for participating at this conference and for contributing to this new and strategic research field. It always pays off to meet and discuss with colleagues, even if the information is communicated only in micro-units, the learning may be macro.

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