



## **Blended Learning in ESP Courses: a Case Study from the Field of Communication and Internet Studies at Tertiary Level**

**Stavroulla Hadjiconstatinou**

Cyprus University of Technology (Cyprus)

[s.hadjiconstatinou@cut.ac.cy](mailto:s.hadjiconstatinou@cut.ac.cy)

### **Abstract**

There is in our days a widespread tendency by language teachers to use instructional technology (IT) as a tool to enhance and support their teaching (Levy, M., Blin, F., Siskin, C. & Takeuchi, O. (2010), Laurillard, D. (2002). The main focus of this study is to explore the ways in which web 2.0 technology (more specifically wikis) is used as a tool to partly replace face to face with online communication, in the instruction of specialized English courses at University level. At this level English for specific purposes (ESP) courses are especially designed and taught according to the academic and professional needs of students in the various disciplines. On one hand tools such as wikis enable instructors to collect, adapt and use content-related material in their courses. On the other hand social networks such as the face book, twitter, and Skype provide opportunities for the participants in a course to communicate and cooperate online by exchanging information, producing and editing content and sharing views and opinions in virtual communities of common interests and goals.

This presentation aims to illustrate how technology is incorporated into an ESP course especially designed from the department of Communication and Internet Studies of the Cyprus University of Technology. Firstly the theoretical background on which the course has been designed (ESP, Blended learning) will be briefly explored followed by examples of how discipline-related material can be delivered and supported by especially designed activities through a wiki used both inside and outside the classroom. The final part of this presentation will be devoted to the perceptions of the 31 participants of the course, on the use of the wiki as an online communication tool in their learning, as well as their views on the integration of other web 2.0 technologies for the same and other purposes.