ICT in Classroom: a New Learning Environment

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Abstract

This paper will present the research results carried out by teachers and students on the use of educational technologies in classroom. These results have been obtained by 6 junior high schools of Umbrian region, participating in the project "Classi2.0" (www.scuola-digitale.it/classi2.0/) and experimenting the didactic format "PoliCultura&Moodle" within the framework of "Learning4All" FIRB national project (http://l4aproject.unisalento.it/).

In order to efficiently answer the students' needs, the learning process intended as a closed system, carried out within a classroom, as well as a linear-sequential learning planning, have to be overcome.

The students are often defined as "digital natives" as they avail themselves of some integrated media in a multitasking and their approach to knowledge is based on research and discovery and centered on problem-solving and knowledge-sharing; in other words, it is net-structured, experiential, cooperative, active and self-organized.

It has been prepared a short questionnaire to document the learning needs of students and their behavior on new technologies (143 students).

Classroom observations have been made during the educational work of a normal school day in order to better understand the classroom activities, understanding the problems and support teachers in finding the best solutions. Students' focus-groups have been carried out in order to capture their perception on experimentation.

To better respond to identified students learning and educational needs, to support teachers in activities with students and to support their specific training, it has been decided to design and set up a LCMS Moodle as a resource for achieving greater interaction with both the institutions involved in the projects, both with students (and their families), and to support and expand the educational activities carried out in classroom, with an online space that would enable the exchange, the interaction and sharing of the study materials.

Now (the project is in progress) n.202 users are enrolled in Moodle: 151 students, 48 teachers, 2 university tutor, and a member of the Regional School Office. The teachers have included in their courses n.182 resources (text files, audio files, video files, web links), n.20 assignments, n.4 chat, n.1 disciplinary forum, in addition to n.6 News forum (default in each course).