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LEARN-NETT PROJECT: A COLLABORATIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR TEACHER TRAINING

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THE LEARN-NETT PROJECT
LEARN-NETT (http://tecfa.unige.ch/proj/learnett/) is an European project that introduces Open and Distance Learning into the training programs for future teachers. Concretely, students from eleven universities in Europe, organized in groups under the supervision of tutors, collaborate at a distance on a project aimed to develop particular uses of ICT. TECFA was in charge of the setting of a virtual campus, supporting collaboration and distance work.

MAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF THE VIRTUAL ENVIRONMENT
The first developed version was carried out in 1997. It was conceived like a HTML files server associated with a forum. So this environment offered not much interactivity. Gradually, a final version was implemented that is a dynamic and interactive environment. characterized by five large poles: collaboration, communication, training, information and management. Technically, we used a MySQL data base, PHP and a Web interface.

This system is integrated because it is a single environment integrating different features and tools according to this dimensions. It is contextualised as well. When a participant gets connected on the site, he arrives in his own environment. He is member of a group and all the tools (e.g. log book, standard homepage, management of the project, task, information on the stage of the project in progress, own resources, forum, chat) are related with his identity and role within this group. The interface is structured according to a typology of the users (public, students, tutors, researchers, person), taking into account that each participant can intervene as a tutor, a member of a group or for him self as a person.

The poster explains how the virtual environment fit and support the pedagogical scenario, how it takes in charge the different roles and tasks of students, tutors, teachers and the coordinator of the project.

REFERENCES