



BABYLON & ONTOLOGY

The European Educational Social Network

Babylon & ONtology: Multilingual and cognitive e-Learning Management System via PDA phone.
Funding Programme: Lifelong Learning Programme 2007 - Multilateral project - Key Activity 3 - ICT.

INDEX

- A Word from the Project manager.....p1
- Introduction to the project.....p2
- Latest news.....p3
- Next events.....p3
- Additional Information.....p3

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A few words from the Project Manager

Manuele Manente, P.M.F. S.r.l.

Welcome to the BONy Network!

Nowadays, working mobility is a reality and often a necessity. Many EU's policies and funded programmes encourage mobility, entrepreneurship and research with European partnership. Project cycle management and language knowledge are fundamental aspects to evolve in such a world. These skills are also strategic for SME, universities and research institutes.

Thus, the first question that inspired the project is: How ICT can help trainees and professionals travelling around Europe to improve their professional and language skills? We concluded on the necessity to develop an ICT-based instrument for personal training, helpful to learn new subject and new languages inherent to the professional mission and training programme.

From our long experience in developing e-learning systems and contents for SME professional training, we identified some major problems:

- Static vision of training, not adequate to different learning objectives and trainee's background;
- State of the art in e-learning systems mainly based on a syntactic representation of knowledge (keyword-based approach) preventing intelligent search, recommending and evaluation;
- Existing e-learning technologies not integrated to the real-life mobility and professional activity;
- Existing technology does not allow a fully automatic tutoring system, requiring a manual intervention of high-cost professional trainers;
- Trainee's professional skills not adequately valorised and included in life cycle of the learning process, losing precious human resources.

We are convinced that, to take a very promising research direction in order to increase dramatically quality and effectiveness of training, we must increase the degree of interaction and personalisation of actual e-learning system by using intelligent field such as user modelling, ontologies, intelligent content analysis, reasoning and adaptive systems.

In such a context, we launched the BONy project with the EC Funds within the framework of the Life Long Learning Programme.

Introduction to the project

BONy is a **cognitive e-learning Management Systems (LMS)** allowing users to find and to learn the units strictly requested and necessary to achieve their training experience. BONy supplies a **multilingual access** to information. This involves an ontological approach to knowledge and an interconnection among formative contents and interactive multimedia thanks to the **semantic web** methodology. BONy e-learners' community will interact using a PDA phone, in order to produce the **first on-site content management system** which will change the user's perspective on learning.

BONy is a **social network** where users can play a double role of students and/or teachers according to their skills and requirements, therefore being able to satisfy their formative needs and to share their professional and language expertises. At the same time, BONy intends to provide a social network experts fully dedicated to the European cooperation in the domains of research and project management.

BONy researchers aim at improving the following ICT equipments in order to efficiently support any training process:

1. An ontology-based e-course on **European Project Cycle Management**, that is a European reality. The idea is to promote future European cooperation to create further e-courses on different subjects (businesses, arts, etc.) and to provide a web-based infrastructure to launch future research projects or to find potential partners;
2. **An adaptive and intuitive e-learning system** able to learn and to configure itself according to its understanding and interaction with learners' requirements, to generate random tests on the formative units required and to verify trainees' progress;
3. **A mobile phone adapter system** useful to retrieve information and to interact within the community;
4. A trainee/trainer **Social network** acting as a "**bank of time**" useful for the creation of a "**friend-of-a-friend**" **expert community**, able to exchange know-how on various topics such as Project Management, education, learning, R&D, with the aim of further integration, inter-cultural dialogue and research project design and management.

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Latest News

- BONy was present at the "Intelligent System – Knowledge and Technology Transfer" conference in Olsztyn (Poland), on September 8th 2008.
- BONy was present at EKAW 2008– Knowledge Engineering and Knowledge Management Conference in Aci Trezza – Catania (Italy), on September 29th – October 3rd 2008.
- The last Transnational meeting of BONy project was held in Barcelona on last November, 6th and 7th 2008.
- BONy is now on Facebook. We have created a group to disseminate, discuss and share information on BONy and other related subjects.
- BONy is now on LinkedIn. We have created a group to discuss, share news and events with the members of the group or any other interested professional.

Next Events

- BONy will be in the OnLine Educa Berlin, the largest global e-learning conference for the corporate, education and public service sectors, on next December 3rd-5th 2008.
- BONy first pilot test will be held on next December 1st-5th 2008. Our aim is to assess the clearness, the usefulness and the exhaustiveness of the didactic materials, to verify the user-friendliness of the ICT educational tools and to collect data for future updates. (+/- 16 hours in 5 days).

Register on line from November 27th 2008, at:

<http://social.bonynetwork.eu>

Additional Information

Website: www.bonynetwork.eu

E-mail: info@bonynetwork.eu