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Integration of the L3 Learning Environment into the WiBA-Net Project

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WiBA-Net aims to provide a flexible learning atmosphere, in which learners can easily access materials according to their way of learning. Learners can also control their own learning process. The L³ environment used in WiBA-Net lets learners access the different learning materials of the course according to their learning style and preferences. The learner can also exchange information with other learners. The content of the WiBA-Net project comes from Civil Engineering. It is an interdisciplinary project in which several German and Austrian universities are collaborating. Currently, 31 educators from universities in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Denmark and Hungary provide content for WiBA-Net. At the Darmstadt University of Technology, the Telecooperation Research Group, Civil Engineering department and the research group on education and technology at the institute for Pedagogy are collaborating.

L³ (*Life/long Learning*), funded by the German Ministry of Education and Research as a key project, is a cooperation of twenty organizations for realizing the vision of a technical and organizational infrastructure for lifelong learning. L³ supports efficient, modular, net-based cooperative learning for individual learners and groups. Based on an analysis of the technical, organizational and didactical conditions, an infrastructure consisting of service and learning centers has been established. Courses are run in learning centers, which are equipped with the latest learning and communication

technologies. Service centers deliver course material to learning centers, monitor economic processes and support communication and cooperation between learners, tutors, and authors.

L³ is one of the largest joint national lighthouse projects in Germany, using Internet technology for continuing vocational education. The main goal is to provide a scalable business platform for vocational continuing learning in Germany. The platform provides a cooperative web-based distance learning environment. It comprises business models of online learning, quality assurance, as well as pedagogic and didactic aspects such as learning-on-demand, flexible learning and collaboration between learners and tutors [1].

One of the main benefits of L³ is the recommended learning path which is generated dynamically according to learner settings. For this end, L³ incorporates macro- and micro-strategies. A Macro-strategy operates on the level of courses and subcourses, ordering them according to the type of view the learner prefers. Two example views are deductive versus inductive. The micro-strategy operates within one learning unit, affecting the sequence of display for the basic learning elements. For example, the learner can choose whether he wants to see explanations before examples or vice versa. Note that the learning path is only a recommendation; the learner can also skip to other parts of the course. More information about L³ can be found in [1].

In WiBA-Net, we face the challenge of incorporating the input of the 31 cooperating European educators. The course materials defined by the educators shall exhibit a corporate design and be treated interchangeably. We have to define sensible usage guidelines for content providers that address non-computer scientists as target users and are adaptable to other environments.

[1] Thomas Leidig, L³ –Towards an Open Learning Environment, in ACM JERIC Vol.1, No.1