



ITSI: Outlining Learning Environments for the Higher Education Institutions of Tomorrow



The ITSI project (short for 'IT-Service Integration in Studium und Lehre – Moderne Lernumgebung für den Campus von morgen') aims at conceptualizing cutting edge learning environments for multi-disciplinary HE institutions such as the University of Basel. Coordinated by the LearnTechNet at the University of Basel it started in autumn 2011 and includes workshops with internal stakeholders and external experts on questions such as the creation of teaching and learning spaces or areas to interact with others informally.

The project is based on the following tenets, representing current trends in Higher Education and E-Learning:

- (1) **From Teaching to Learning:** individual and group study become more important,
- (2) **Assessment:** learning outcomes and competences are being assessed,
- (3) **Lifelong Learning:** learning environments are adapted to the learning stages of their users and are therefore different,
- (4) **Mobile Learning:** learning does not just happen in classrooms; it can take place anywhere on or even off campus,
- (5) **Virtual Learning Environment:** virtual space becomes an integral part of the learning environment.

Taken together, these trends make it clear that state of the art learning environments are spaces which can cater for diverse learning and teaching scenarios.

Five main types of spaces have been identified and will be further developed in individual workshops: teaching spaces, learning spaces, interspaces, discovery area (teaching and learning labs), and exam centers. These spaces represent both physical rooms, e.g. a lecture theatre or a library, and virtual environments. In addition, the three strands 'lifelong learning', 'diversity' and 'sustainability' have been found to matter in all five spaces and will therefore be given due consideration in the proposed workshops. In a next stage, the results of the workshops as well as contributions from invited experts will be published as a book. It is also possible that at this stage special interest groups (SIGs) are formed, at the University of Basel and/or even at a national level, within the eduhub community, to continue the discussion.

Types of Spaces



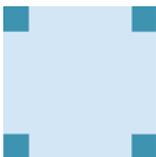
Teaching Spaces – focus on teachers, formal, support lecturers:

A teaching space is a formal setting where traditional lectures take place and students can gain credit points.



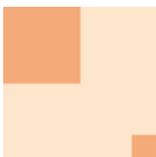
Learning Spaces – focus on learners, individual and mobile:

Learning spaces are suitable for study by individuals and groups. They can be customized to the specific needs of the students using them.



Exam Center – assessments and tests, fair and secure:

Exam centers are purpose-built to assess student achievement and performance before, during or after a course.



Interspaces – allow privacy and social interaction, public, informal:

Campus is also a place to be. There is need for spaces to meet, socialize, interact and relax, but also for such allowing individuals some privacy.



Learning and Teaching Labs – creative, experiment:

This is the space to develop innovative ways of learning and teaching by using, testing and refining cutting-edge technology.

Underlying Strands

Lifelong Learning: This strand emphasizes the variations in forms, goals and methods of different learning and teaching units at a university depending on their institutional context (e.g. undergraduate education, graduate education, continuing education, knowledge work, self-directed learning, staff development etc).

Diversity: Due attention is paid that any future learning environments promote the diversity of students and staff and enable everyone to fully participate in academic life.

Sustainability: The learning environments to be developed should follow the principles of economic, social and environmental sustainability.

Information and Contact

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