

E-LEARNING - APPLIED E-SCIENCE OR LEARNING AS A SOCIAL PROCESS?

Prof. Dr. Josef Strobl (University of Salzburg)

ABSTRACT:

Looking back on 10+ years of online eLearning, and designing the next steps in distance learning innovation, the author reviews evidence that social interaction and interactive participation are key indicators for success in online learning. From an instructional design perspective, active learning, collaborative exercises, short feedback loops, game-based learning, microlearning and peer support are essential components in the effective and sustained acquisition of new knowledge and skills. While information technologies are closely linked to our learning objectives, communication skills supported by technology are essential for learning processes. ICTs set in an appropriate social and communication framework therefore are indispensable for achieving the objective of individually optimized learning.