

András BENEDEK

Bursts or Constant Light?
On the Potential of Learning Networks

Contemporary visual technology – film, video, interactive digital media – is promoting, but also demanding, a radically new approach to learning: the age of visual learning has begun. This is especially true for tertiary-level education where the “learning space” looks similar to the physical behaviour of light. Stimulating visual learning tasks can be regarded as impulses the influence of which in the learning nets (Moodle) was studied on a relatively large student population. These impulses were of short-time interval, but led to a significant rise in student activity. We assume that in the learning space suitable techniques, particularly in the promotion of horizontal activities, will allow “bursts” to develop, in the longer run, into durable “light”. The presentation of these phenomena draws attention to the analysis, based on the Moodle experience, that permits us to formulate statements as regards the network activity level of learning. The formal process of learning directly related to the informative network learning space for students, horizontal communication (forums, chats), the intensive regaining of inputs, and increase in the frequency of communication, may have a stabilizing impact on learning.

András BENEDEK, Professor and Head, Department of Technical Education, Budapest University of Technology and Economics, has published approximately 150 papers to date in connection with human resource development issues, among them the essays “New Vistas of Learning in the Mobile Age”, in Kristóf Nyíri (ed.), *Mobile Understanding: The Epistemology of Ubiquitous Communication*, Vienna: Passagen Verlag, 2006, and “Mobile Learning: New Horizons and Unstable Summits”, in Kristóf Nyíri (ed.), *Engagement and Exposure: Mobile Communication and the Ethics of Social Networking*, Vienna: Passagen Verlag, 2009. From 1976 to 1979 he studied systems analysis on a scholarship and acquired a PhD at the Academy of Sciences in Moscow. During the 1980s he was a scientific advisor at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. He was the Director of Vocational Training (from 1984 to 1989), then Director General (from 1989 to 1990) at the National Pedagogical Institute. As its first Director General in 1990, he established the National Institute for Vocational Education. He was involved in numerous UNESCO and ILO projects. 1991–2006 he held the positions of deputy and permanent state secretary in different ministries. In 2004 he acquired a DSc at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. E-mail: benedek.a@eik.bme.hu.

