

**András BENEDEK**

### *Parables of Visual Learning*

Both the Visual Learning Lab, initiated by Budapest University of Technology and Economics and already operating for half a decade, and the international communication process that established the communication platform <http://vll.mpt.bme.hu> in the framework of Visual Learning Conferences while also launching a series of essays (VISUAL LEARNING, Peter Lang Internationaler Verlag der Wissenschaften) serve as a model for analysing parabolic characteristics. Although the visual element in human communication is acknowledged by philosophers and it is indeed gaining ground these days (Nyíri K.) with special regard to the use of mobile ICT tools that provide general access to visual tools in space and time (Katz J.), this kind of progressive attitude is not yet typically present in the theory and practice of education. By presenting examples of scientific communication on visual learning, the presentation wishes to demonstrate the significant potential of combining verbal and visual communication in the proper ratio in the development of education. The traditional features of technical higher education (Ferguson S. E.) and the strong technical support behind it provide an excellent opportunity for new parabolic educational innovations in visual learning. According to the author's hypothesis, visual learning carries the possibility of such parables that will be able to improve the efficiency of human learning, currently characterised by a constant lack of time and information pressure, as opposed to traditional education based on verbal communication.

**András BENEDEK**, Professor and Head, Department of Technical Education, Budapest University of Technology and Economics, has published some 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, and continues to participate in the preparation of various World Bank and Phare projects in the area of human resource development. 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](mailto:benedek.a@eik.bme.hu).

