**Learners’ e-learning competence, a major challenge for digital education**

E-learning competence defines to what extent a person can participate in digital learning such as conversational academic learning, rapid e-learning in a company, MOOCs, interactive multimedia, classroom technology, etc. The failure and dropout rates of some online learning programs is sometimes high. One of the reasons comes from a digital literacy deficit in the broadest sense. Another reason is that e-learning is often used as an opportunity to introduce new active pedagogies, which requires a cultural adaptation effort from the learners.

This literacy, named in different ways in the English-language literature (for example: “online learning skills, “e-learning skills”, “e-learner competency”, “e-learning readiness”, “distance learner competence”, “blended learning competence”, etc.) refers to skills, knowledge, attitudes, and behavior sets needed to participate in digital learning programs.

Firstly, we define e-learning competence through four main literacy dimensions: information/digital, communication, pedagogical culture and metacognition. These overlapping dimensions are “attached” to different types of stakeholders (e.g. librarians, student support and digital learning services) and different research traditions (e.g. educational technology, distance learning, communication sciences). We will attempt to present an integrated component model including over fifty different competences.

Second, we will discuss the usefulness of such component models and whether we should rather focus both research and training on developmental patterns that define a kind of e-learning intelligence (eQ) model that we should seek to develop. We will present a development model for e-learning literacy that is inspired by several research approaches in intercultural communication.

Through these theoretical contributions we would like to start a reflection on the needs of direct training and adaptation of learning scenarios, for example through wakeup activities. We also would like to initiate some international collaboration in continuous education and training.

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