

MATURE Application Partners and Associate Partners

One of the major outcomes of the MATURE project will be an analysis of real-world maturing practices, resulting in a sound general conceptual model of the knowledge maturing process, together with an understanding of ways to overcome barriers to it (particularly motivational and social influences).

The project, therefore, has a small number of test – or application – partners, for piloting the tools and processes being developed. These include two UK based organisations offering information, advice and careers guidance. One of these is Connexions Kent. The other is Careers Scotland.

In addition, MATURE has a number of Associate Partners, consisting of companies of all sizes as well as research institutions. A key role for these Associate Partners is in the dissemination and exploitation activities. This partner network will have early access to project results and will be invited to provide input and feedback to the project developments. MATURE will have at least three associate partner workshops. For information on the current network of Associate Partners, go to:

<http://mature-ip.eu/en/associate-partners>



Contact for IAG use cases



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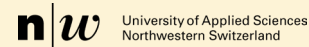
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Project Facts

Budget: 9.1 million €
Timeline: April 2008 - March 2012

MATURE has a growing network of associate partners from industry and academia. If you are interested in joining, just visit the web site or contact us directly.

More information under
<http://mature-ip.eu>



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What is MATURE?

MATURE is a four year project (2008-2012) which is being undertaken as part of the European Seventh Framework programme. It is managed by FZI Research Center for Information Technologies, a technology transfer centre at the University of Karlsruhe, Germany, which has brought together an experienced consortium of experts. There are twelve core partners in this consortium, comprising eight Universities and research institutes (based in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Spain and England) and four companies. The Institute for Employment Research at the University of Warwick is one of these partners. Details of these partners can be accessed at:

<http://mature-ip.eu/en/consortium>

Aim of MATURE

The aim of MATURE is to develop technology-based tools to support knowledge-maturing processes within organisations and is based on the idea that organisational agility has become critical for economic competitiveness.

What is organisational agility?

This refers to the ways organisations develop the ability to respond quickly to:

- opportunities, changes in their operating environment and changing stakeholder needs;
- overcoming inertia; and
- maintaining a balance between responding efficiently to stimuli and maintaining their focus.

MATURE is concentrating on the way organisational agility requires organisations to support the development of their employees' competencies, so that the effectiveness of knowledge work and information is improved. Recent failures of organisation-driven approaches to technology enhanced learning contrast sharply with the success of community-driven approaches to developing information and knowledge (like Web 2.0 including, social networking, blogs, wikis, podcasts etc.). This indicates that to achieve agility within organisations, employees' collective skills, knowledge and understanding have to be developed, for example through engagement with collaborative learning activities. This learning and development, in turn, can then be combined with new forms of organisational support for learning and development, and for improving work processes in day-to-day practice.

What are 'knowledge workers' and knowledge-maturing processes?

The global shift away from the industrial society towards the information society brought with it the creation of 'knowledge workers'. Generally, these are people who work primarily with information, or who develop and use knowledge in the workplace. A key assumption underpinning MATURE is that for these workers, individual learning processes are linked to organisational learning in a 'knowledge-maturing process', during which knowledge continually changes in nature. This knowledge can take many forms (for example, related to work tasks or processes) and one goal of MATURE is to understand this maturing process better, so that tools and services can be developed to support this process.

IAG practitioners as knowledge workers?

Information, advice and guidance (IAG) practitioners are knowledge workers in their use labour market information (LMI) because of the requirements for them to: use and obtain different sources of information and knowledge (which is current and accurate) on the labour market; extract key information; interpret and manipulate that data for clients of their service; and share that knowledge with colleagues. Such a process involves continuous learning and knowledge development – knowledge maturing.

What tools and services will MATURE develop?

To support the process of knowledge maturing within organisations, tools and services will be developed by the MATURE project. These will include:

- a Personal Learning & Maturing Environment, embedded into the working environment, enabling and encouraging the individual to engage in maturing/learning activities within communities and beyond;
- an Organisational Learning & Maturing Environment, enabling the organisation to analyse and take-up community activities, to reseed innovation processes and to apply guiding strategies.

