

Using eLearning for Communities of Practice

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Abstract- Learning is more considered to be a collaborative problem solving process that involves social network relations and a common shared experience. The profound changes demonstrate the essential role of supportive relationship in education and emphasize the importance of building learning communities, communities of practice and collaboration in learning environments. The advent of eLearning added new meaning to education, and introduced the possibilities for building online learning communities and communities of practice through online collaboration. This paper will, thus, discuss the importance of learning communities and try to explore the potential of eLearning in building and supporting online learning communities through online collaboration by means of related technologies. This paper will also share the experiences obtained from the applications in the Faculty of Education at Middle East Technical University in Turkey.

Keywords- communities of practice, eLearning, innovative learning environments, learning communities,

Remarks: *The full paper may be found in www.elearningap.com*