



Report from visiting University of Technology Graz, Austria

30.11.2007.

Activity 1.1 Current practices and principles

In order to perform task of reviewing current practices and principles according to the project activity no. 1.1., we visited our project partner from University of Technology Graz, Austria, Faculty of Computer Science, Institute for Information Systems and Computer Media - IICM, during 28.10. – 4.11.2007.

The IICM can refer to a long tradition of significant projects in various areas of multimedia systems and applications: The range includes MUPID, the first intelligent Videotex decoder in the early 1980s, to prototypes of the successful knowledge management system Hyperwave (<http://www.hyperwave.de>), to digital libraries (EU project LIBERATION), electronic publishing activities (J.UCS, the electronic 'Journal of Universal Computer Science' is co-produced by the IICM, see www.jucs.org), distributed multimedia systems (the 'Dinopolis Open Source Project') and innovative eLearning platforms (the system WBT-Master that was used by industry partners such as DaimlerChrysler in the course of the EU project CORONET).

We had several meetings and presentations during our visit. Mainly talks were conducted with professors Nick Scerbakov and Denis Helic, as well as with several other staff members from IICM.

Teaching at the IICM

IICM has study program according to the 3+2 schema, where we were introduced in detail about their undergraduate and master studies structure and organization.

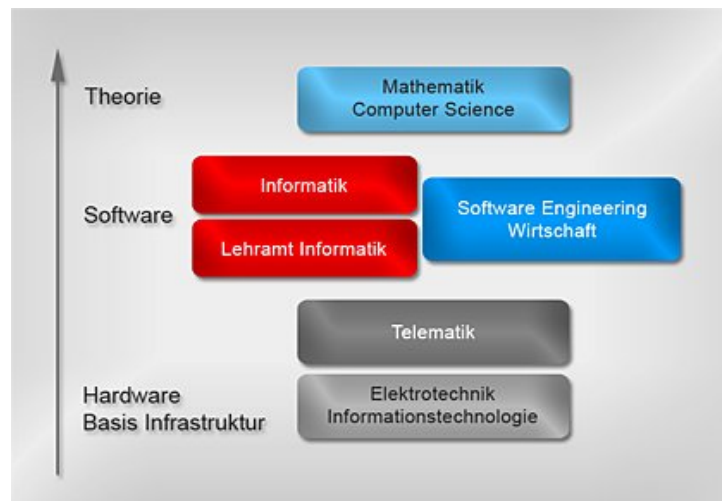
The courses offered by the IICM mainly cover the following studies:

- [Telematics](#) (Bachelor's and Master's degrees)
- [Software Development-Economy](#) (Bachelor's and Master's degrees)
- [Technical Mathematics](#) (Bachelor's and Master's degrees)

and since October 2005 also

- [Computer Science](#) (Bachelor's and Master's degrees)
- [Informatics and Informatics Management](#) (MAed.)

With these new study programs "Computer Science" und "Informatics and Informatics Management" the Graz University of Technology offers now a broad range of study programs of Computer Science, from near-to-hardware to theory:



For details on the studies at the Faculty of Computer Science please refer to the [Faculty website](#).

Current practices and principles in e-learning at IICM

We had a presentation given by Martin Ebner from TU Graz Teachcenter, who is responsible for administration of university's learning management system, named WBT Master (<http://elearning.tugraz.at>). WBT Master LMS is created at the IICM and is used by professors and students of University of Technology. Among other features, LMS supports self creation of learning materials, testing, course administration, interaction through forums, blogs etc. For developing tutorials IICM uses Camtasia software and users are satisfied with acquired results.

Providing lectures by using LMS is voluntary for teaching staff and experiences from those who are using the system are quite positive and there are not many requests for additional support from administrator.

Delivery methods for courses provided by LMS are blended learning, enabling professors to post teaching materials of various kinds (incl. podcasting, etc.), tests, and interactions.

Partners from IICM are recommended us to visit the International Conference on New Media Technology I-MEDIA which is organized by TU Graz annually (<http://i-media.tugraz.at/>). This conference brings together people of similar interests for developing new digital media for teaching purposes.

Our partners have also suggested us to follow up articles in **J.UCS** - The Journal of Universal Computer Science (<http://www.jucs.org>), which is a high-quality electronic publication that deals with all aspects of computer science. J.UCS is published by Graz University of Technology, Austria, with the support of Know-Center, Austria and the University of Applied Sciences, Austria. For our project a special interest is Special issue on *Computers in Education: New Developments in e-Learning Technology*, Vol. 13, Issue 7, 2007.

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