Call for Papers – The PLE Conference 2012

Following the highly successful events in Barcelona, Spain (#PLE_BCN), and Southampton, UK (#PLE_SOU), the next PLE Conference will be held simultaneously in Aveiro, Portugal and Melbourne, Australia (#PLEConf) from July 11th to 13th 2012.

The Personal Learning Environment (PLE) Conference is intended to produce a space for researchers and practitioners to exchange ideas, experiences and research around the development and implementation of PLEs – including the design of environments and the sociological and educational issues that they raise. Whilst the conference includes a traditional research paper strand, we also encourage proposals for sessions in different formats including workshops, posters, debates, cafe sessions and demonstrations aiming to sustain the dynamic and interactive discussion environment established by the previous events in Barcelona and Southampton.

A Personal Learning Environment (PLE) includes the tools, communities, and services that constitute individual educational platforms that learners use to direct their own learning and pursue their educational goals. This represents a shift away from the traditional model of learning, and towards a model where students draw connections from a growing matrix of online and offline resources that they select and organise. To gain something of the flavor of the last conferences search for #PLE_BCN and #PLE_SOU and see http://pleconference.citilab.eu/ and http://www.pleconf.org/2011

Call for papers and keynote speakers

The conference organisers welcome 1200 word <u>extended abstracts</u> for full papers or 700 words for short papers, posters and doctoral consortium panel participation.

Submissions for other types of presentation, such as Pecha Kucha, workshops, symposia, demonstrations and installations are also encouraged (please be patient and wait for a separate call on that).

Submissions should also include the preferred location for presentation (Aveiro or Melbourne).

This year's edition of The PLE Conference will take the unConference model a step further. Authors of extended abstracts will have the opportunity to suggest the keynote speakers for the second day. If you're interested to submit your abstract to present in Aveiro, please add two names that, as a team, you believe could have an awesome performance as keynote speakers. All proposals should be gender balanced (i.e. a team composed by a man and a woman) and preferably from different countries.

Conference themes

Conference themes include (but are not limited to):

- Theories and frameworks for Personal Learning Environments
- Technologies and software for developing Personal Learning Environments
- PLEs in Practice (case studies, approaches to using PLEs)
- Educational institutions, change and PLEs
- Pedagogical approaches to personal and self-regulated learning
- The development and management of Personal Learning Networks
- Emerging technologies for PLEs
- Supporting informal and contextual learning
- Using PLEs in organisations
- Using PLEs for Work Based Learning

The PLE conference is especially looking for originality and relevancy of ideas and for creative proposals, in both form and content. Formats for publication and

communication of research are two different things! Regardless of the publication format you decide to contribute, full paper, workshop etc., the organising committee encourages interactive and creative ways of communicating research.

Hence, we invite you to submit your contribution in the publication format you prefer (for papers we require formatting according to the Springer LNCS template http://www.springer.com/computer/lncs?SGWID=0-164-6-793341-0).

In the submission form you may select your preference regarding the type of presentation you wish to make (e.g.: round table discussion, bring your own laptop, cafe session). Once the review of papers is concluded, presentations will be organised by topics and session chairs will start liaising with participants regarding the organisation of their session. Our goal is to create spaces for meaningful discussions. In short, the purpose is to create opportunities for delegates to interact with each other and achieve real communication. We aim to promote dialogue and interactivity throughout the conference.

In celebration of User Generated Content we will have a Mediacast Contest during the PLE Conference 2012 with awards for the best three mediacast productions on Personal Learning Environments.

Review Process

Extended abstracts for full and short papers proposals will be subject to a double-blind peer review process and authors of accepted proposals are invited to submit full versions of their papers. Authors of accepted abstracts are expected to submit a final paper of no more than 3000 words (short papers) or 8000 words (full papers) by 13.05.2012. The word limits include everything (title, abstract, keywords, bibliography). Figures and tables account for 250 words each. These full versions will also be subject to a peer review process and authors of accepted papers will be notified by 10.06.2012.

All proposals accepted will be published electronically with an ISSN number.

In addition to the proceedings, we intend to publish selected conference papers in special editions of the journals that support the conference.

Please note that all submissions should be licensed under a Creative Commons license.

Important dates

22.12.2011	Call for Papers
16.03.2012	Deadline for workshop proposals Deadline for submission of extended abstracts for full and short papers, posters and doctoral consortium panel
13.04.2012	Acceptance notification for workshops Author notification of acceptance of extended abstracts for full and short papers, posters and doctoral consortium
13.05.2012	Deadline for final full and short papers
10.06.2012	Author notification for final full and short papers
02.07.2012	Deadline for other contributions (MediaCast, Pecha Kucha, demonstrations…)
11.07.2012	Pre-Conference Workshops
12 and 13.07.2012	Conference

Guidelines for different participation formats

Full papers

As a guide, the extended abstract for a full paper should include the following topics:

- *Background*: The area and theoretical framework of the work, e.g. "This paper takes a socio-cultural perspective to the design of PLEs." or "This is an action research study of the introduction of mobile PLEs for learning."

- *Description of approach used*: Describe the methods being employed in the work.

- *Results of work done*: Give an account of the work that is in progress or has been carried out, and why it is important. Show how you have evaluated or conducted a critical appraisal of the work.

- *Conclusion*: Reflect on the successes and limitations of the work and its potential for further development.

Submissions should address one or more of the specific conference themes or be related to the general theme of Personal Learning Environments.

Full papers may report on research or bring together research and/or policy into an overview that gives new insight into an area or suggests ways in which policy and/or practice may develop from current work. They may also include reports on work in progress at an early stage of development, perhaps indicating key results to date.

Note: All abstract proposers accepted will be expected to provide a full paper by May 13th 2012. Full papers should be of a maximum of 8000 words and submitted on the template provided.

The best papers presented will be included in special issues of international journals that support the conference.

Short papers

As a guide, the extended abstract for a short paper should include the following topics:

- *Background*: The area and theoretical framework of the work, e.g. "This paper takes a socio-cultural perspective to the design of PLEs." or "This is an action research study of the introduction of mobile PLEs for learning."

- *Description of approach used*: Describe the methods being employed in the work.

- Results of work done: Give an account of the work that is in progress or has been carried out, and why it is important. Show how you have evaluated or conducted a critical appraisal of the work.

- *Conclusion*: Reflect on the successes and limitations of the work and its potential for further development. Note that a written paper is not required in addition to the abstract.

A short paper should describe and analyse either innovative work or some other significant contribution to the field of PLE development and implementation.

The short paper format is suitable, e.g., for reviews of projects, for work-in-progress, or for discussion or position papers. A key requirement is that the paper has a clear focus.

Note: All abstract proposers accepted will be expected to provide a short paper by May 13th 2012. Short papers should be of a maximum of 3000 words and submitted on the template provided.

All accepted short papers will be will be published with an ISSN by the PLE 2012 conference.

Posters

As a guide, the abstract for a poster should include the following topics:

- *Background*: The area and theoretical framework of the work.

- *Description of approach used*: Describe the methods being employed in the work, and how you will convey this to conference participants. Include a description of any diagram or picture that will form the focus of the poster.

- *Results of work done*: An account of the work that is in progress or has been carried out, and why it is important.

- *Conclusion*: summarise the effect of the work done and any developments you anticipate. We also encourage poster presenters to make available a pdf or a standalone web page of their poster. This will enable posters to be viewed electronically as well as physically thus making them potentially more flexible and more widely available to conference attendees.

You do not need to address this at the stage of submitting the abstract.

We aim to give posters prominence during the PLE 2012 conference and for them to be positioned in a heavily frequented location.

A prize will be awarded to the best poster during the conference. Posters are especially welcome from new practitioners or researchers, including postgraduates working in Learning Technology.

All accepted posters will be will be published with an ISSN by the PLE 2012 conference.

Doctoral consortium

As a guide, the abstract for doctoral consortium panel participation should include the following topics:

- Context and motivation that underpins your research

- Key concepts for your research

- Problem statement

- Research objectives/goals

- Research methods

- Current (if any) and expected contributions

The doctoral consortium offers research students a debate space where they can present and discuss their research projects with peers and other researchers in the field.

The presentation format will consist in a 7-minute elevator pitch followed by an open and interdisciplinary discussion session that includes researchers from the technology, education, and methodology fields.

Information such as the name of the proposer, name of the supervisor, faculty, and year should be included in the abstract.

All accepted doctoral consortium abstracts will be published with an ISSN by the PLE 2012 conference

Final Submission Information

The PLE Conference is committed to an open publication model for conference contributions.

By submitting a proposal to PLE 2012, authors agree that they or their employer retain copyright, but that contributions - if published - will be licensed for use with a CC License - http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/

Full Papers

If your abstract is accepted, the full paper should have 8000 words (including references, tables and figures).

Short Papers

If your abstract is accepted, the short paper should have 3000 words (including references, tables and figures).

Posters

The final form of the poster itself is an A0 or A1 poster. The poster itself, if accepted, is brought to the conference (i.e. it is not submitted at the same time as the abstract).

Doctoral consortium

If your abstract is accepted, the final text should have ~1500 words (including references, tables and figures).

Workshops, Posters, Symposia, Demonstration, Installations, BYOL (BringYourOwnLaptop) sessions and other Formats

Please submit your proposal indicating that you intend to make a contribution in one of these alternative formats.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us (pleconfweb@gmail.com).