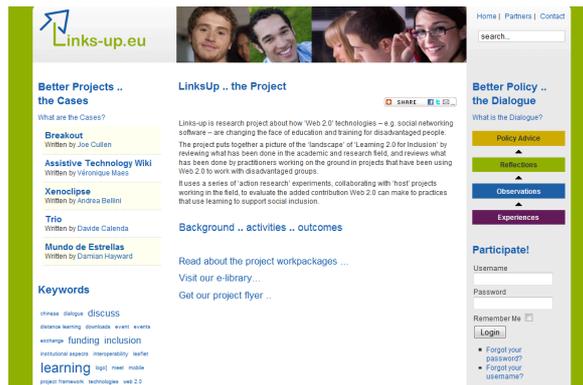


Learning 2.0 for an Inclusive Society - Links-up Goes Online

Links-up is research project about how 'Web 2.0' technologies – e.g. social networking software – are changing the face of education and training for disadvantaged people. The project puts together a picture of 'Learning 2.0 for Inclusion' by reviewing research done in the academic field, and reviews what has been done by practitioners working on the ground in projects that have been using Web 2.0 to work with disadvantaged groups. It uses a series of 'action research' experiments, collaborating with host projects working in the field, to evaluate the added contribution Web 2.0 can make to practices that use learning to support social inclusion.

The website offers a full collection of cases involved as well as podcasts and more on local initiatives such as the [Podcasting-Workshop](#) in Senior citizen center of Walser Birnbaum.



The screenshot shows the Links-up website interface. It features a navigation menu with links like 'Home', 'Partners', and 'Contact'. A search bar is present at the top right. The main content area is divided into several sections: 'Better Projects .. the Cases' with sub-sections like 'Breakout', 'Assistive Technology Wiki', 'Xenoclipse', 'Trio', and 'Mundo de Estrellas'; 'LinksUp .. the Project' with a description and social media links; 'Better Policy .. the Dialogue' with sub-sections like 'Policy Advice', 'Reflections', 'Observations', and 'Experiences'; and a 'Participate!' section with fields for 'Username' and 'Password', and a 'Login' button. A 'Keywords' section at the bottom lists terms like 'distance learning', 'e-learning', 'social networking', etc.

Upcoming relevant events

10-13 May 2011, 10th anniversary symposium Web in the Hood in The Hague, Emmen, Almere, The Netherlands, *Social use of ICT*

19-22 June 2011, EDEN 20th Anniversary Annual Conference, Links-up workshop, Dublin, Ireland

Collection and analysis of local initiatives online

The project website shares Experiences from the real world. They tell us about what works and what doesn't work. The observations made based on the experiences distinguish the general trend from the particular and local circumstances. You may share your experiences by registering and adding your good or bad practices on the field. The [e-library](#) of the project offers the first study on in-depth case studies of innovative examples of the use of Learning 2.0 and Web 2.0 for inclusive lifelong learning.

Highlights – local initiatives introduced

Seniorkom.at (www.seniorkom.at) is one of the biggest and largest barrier-free information and communication platforms for German speaking seniors in the Internet and offers information services and a lot of latest (regional and national) topics. It has more than 13.300 active users with an interactive member area to write articles or comments, rate content, upload photos and videos, take an active part in raffles, games and voting's as well as to communicate with others via forums, weblogs, chats.

Seniorkom.at offers cross-generational training courses free of charge in whole Austria. Elderly people learn from adolescents how to use the PC and the Internet and both sides benefit from this idea. With these courses the computer barriers are teared down for senior citizens, they learn how to use the Internet in a useful, practical and relevant way. Some of the courses are e.g. First steps in the Internet; Searching and finding in the Internet; E-Mail, Skype & Co; Security in the Internet.



Web in the Hood is a web 2.0 approach of local community building. The activities take place in a public working space in the neighbourhood are of local citizens with computers and internet with a community worker who is trained to use Social Media to enhance individual empowerment and networking. It is developed by social and IT experts and academic researchers who work together in a national organization called 'Web in the Hood'. It is currently powered by housing companies, local authorities and institutions working in the field of community building and healthcare.



The project is a good example of informal learning. Through Links-up we will get to know why people want to learn in this environment, what applications do they use and how can the quality of the approach be enhanced. More information can be found at [the Links-up website](#) and http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/qual/practical-examples/adapt-07-nl-myport_en.cfm