

Lifelong Learning Networks for Sustainable Regional Development

Joop de Kraker, Ron Cörvers et al.



Presentation

- Background: 3-LENSUS project
- Learning Networks
- Impact of Web 2.0
- Needs assessment Regional Learning Networks
- Case: SUN-project
- Issues for discussion



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Lifelong Learning Network for Sustainable Development

- EU Lifelong Learning Project (2009-2011)
- 5 universities (OUNL, Lüneburg, Graz, Prague, Thessaloniki)
- 2 Regional Centres of Expertise on Learning for SD (Rhine-Meuse, Graz-Styria)
- Establish lifelong learning networks for SD: European + regional level



Introduction

- **Sustainable Regional Development Initiatives:**
participatory, multi-actor, innovative solutions
- **RCEs:**
support lifelong learning in the region for sustainable development
 - lifelong learning: all forms of learning throughout life
 - LfSD: acquisition of new skills and knowledge by individuals
 - LfSD: co-production of new knowledge by groups
- **Virtual Campus for a Sustainable Europe (VCSE) network:**
how can universities support regional SD through e-learning?
- **3-LENSUS:**
design lifelong learning networks (incl. universities) for Sustainable Regional Development: support mutual and collective learning in participatory multi-actor settings

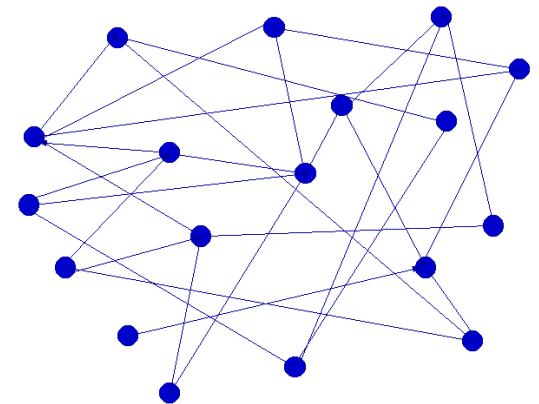


Learning Networks: meanings

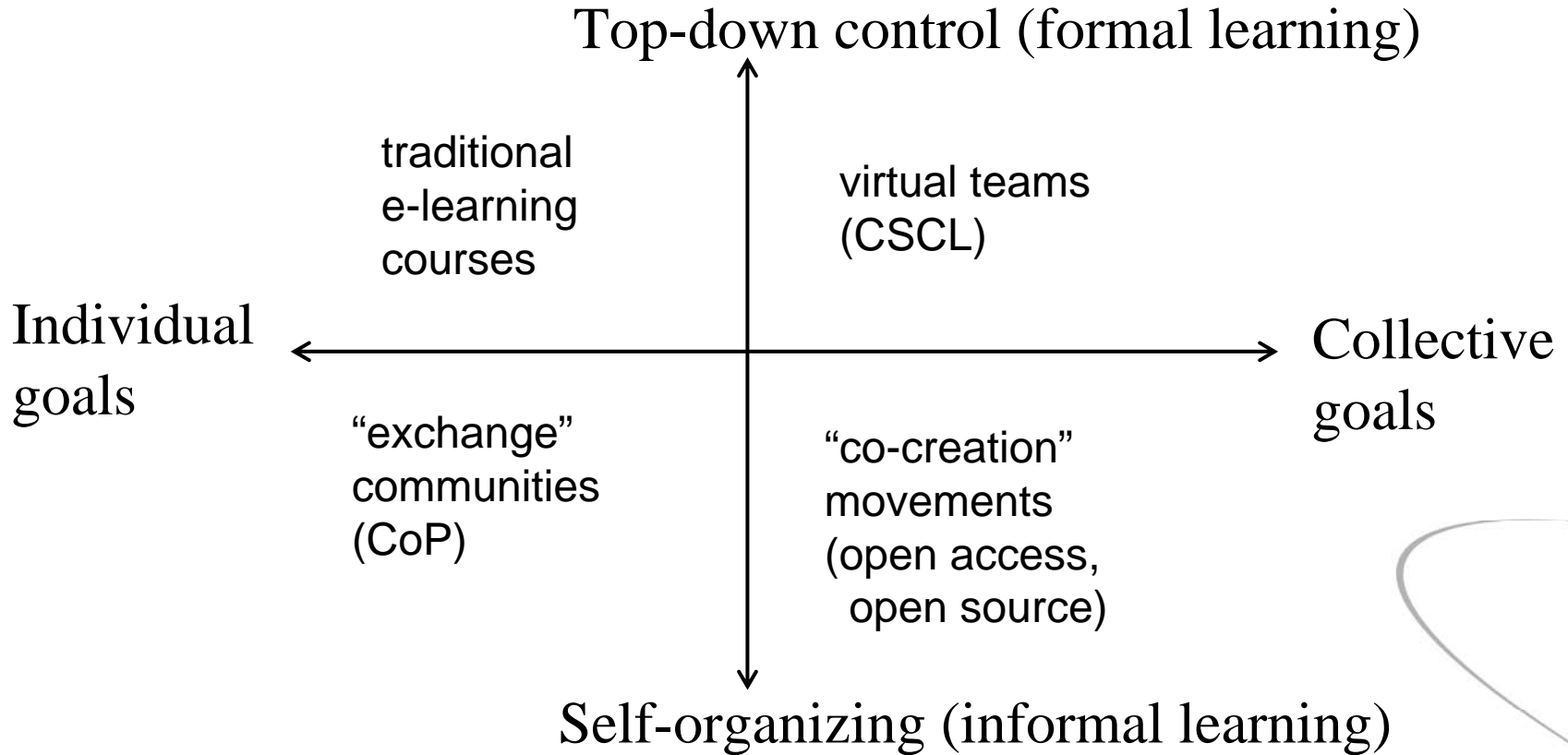
- Sustainable Regional Development: innovative solutions, organizations, physical meetings
- Education & Learning: competencies, individuals/resources/services, online/virtual

“Ensembles of actors, institutions, and learning resources (in any form) which are mutually connected and supported by ICT”
[Koper et al., 2005]

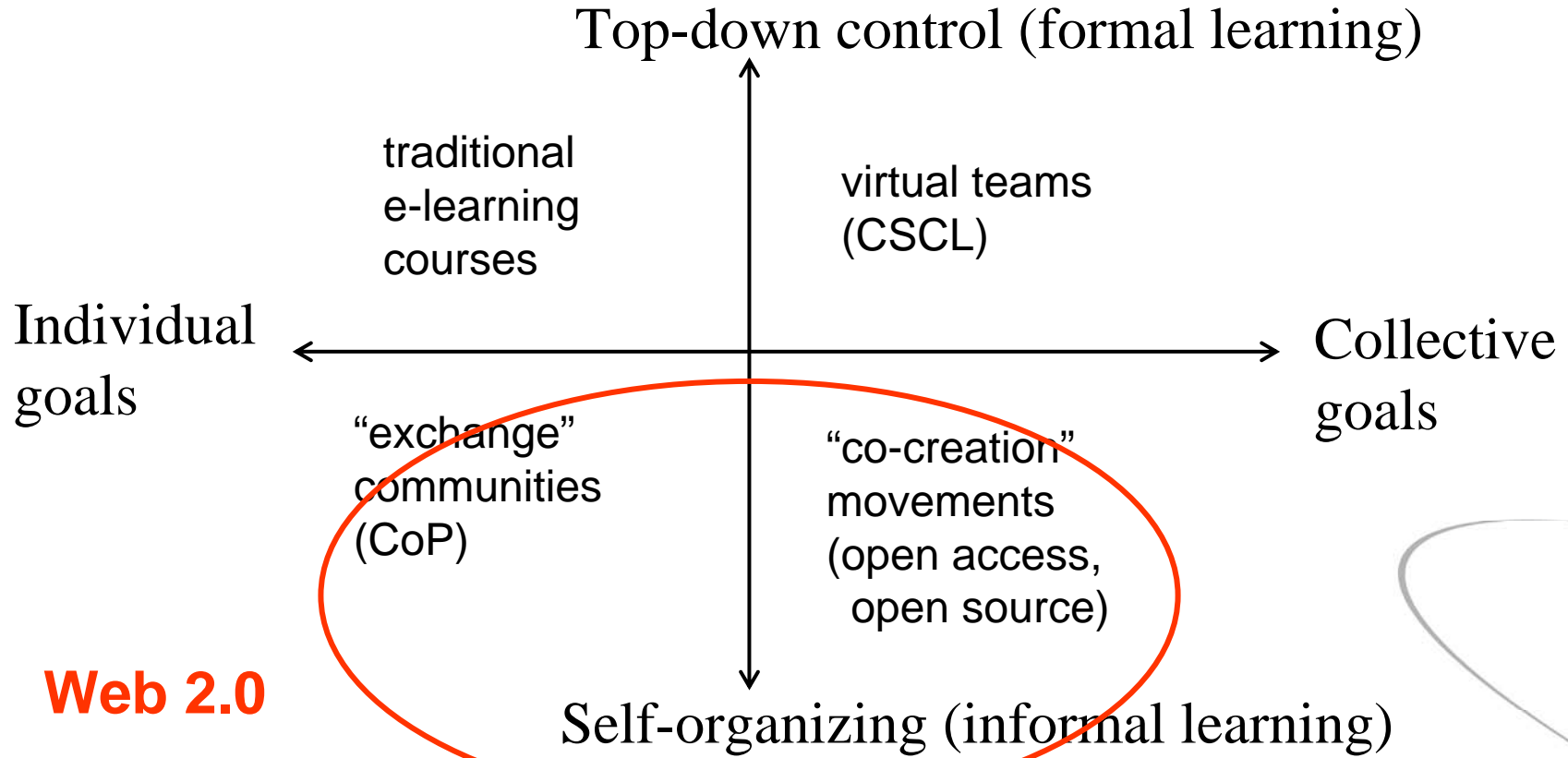
- LEARNING networks to support learning NETWORKS



Learning Networks: typology



Learning Networks



Web 2.0



Web 2.0



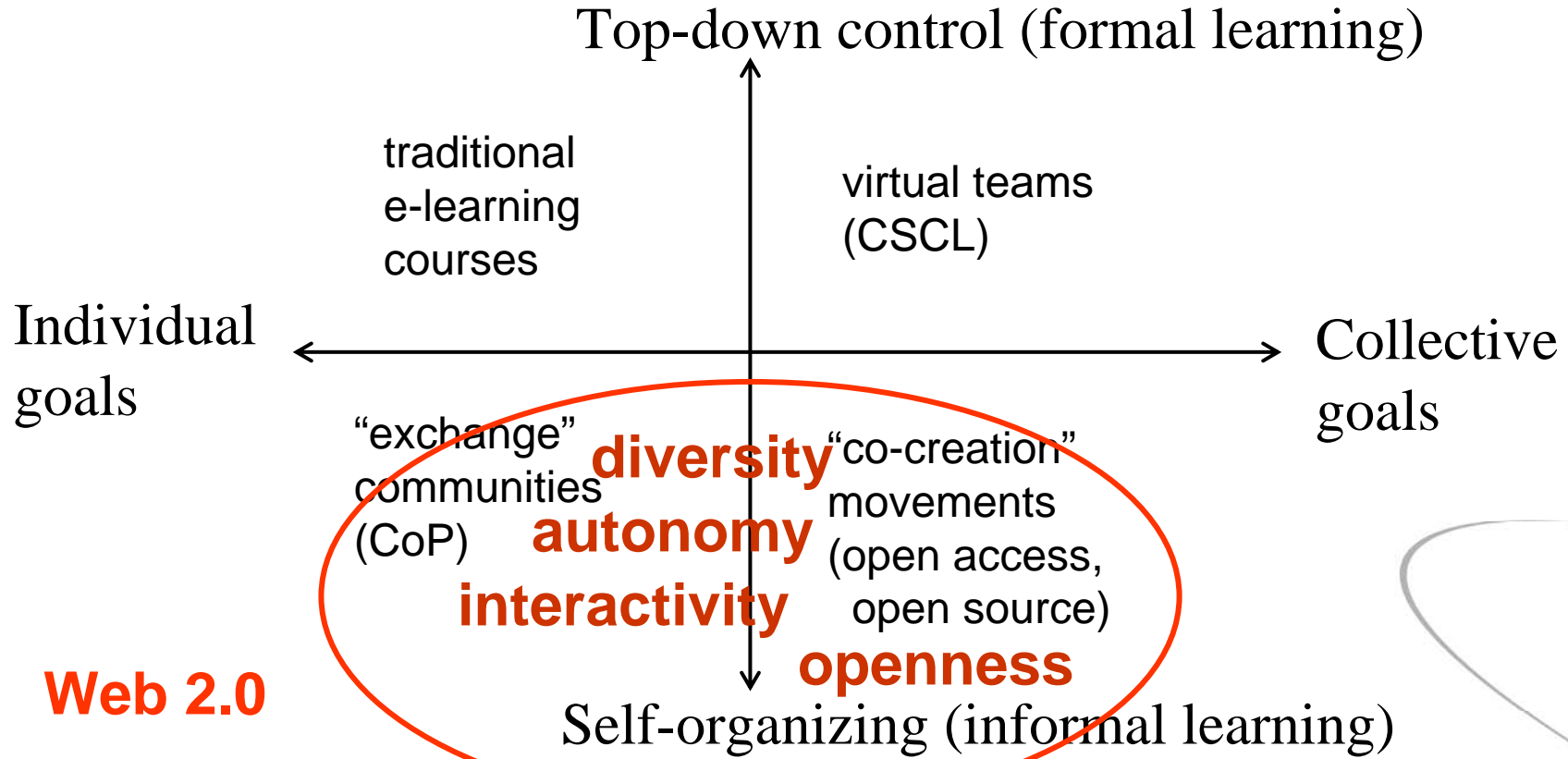
Rate this seller	
Site	★★★★★ ⓘ
Delivery	★★★★☆ ⓘ
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Customer Service	★★★★☆ ⓘ



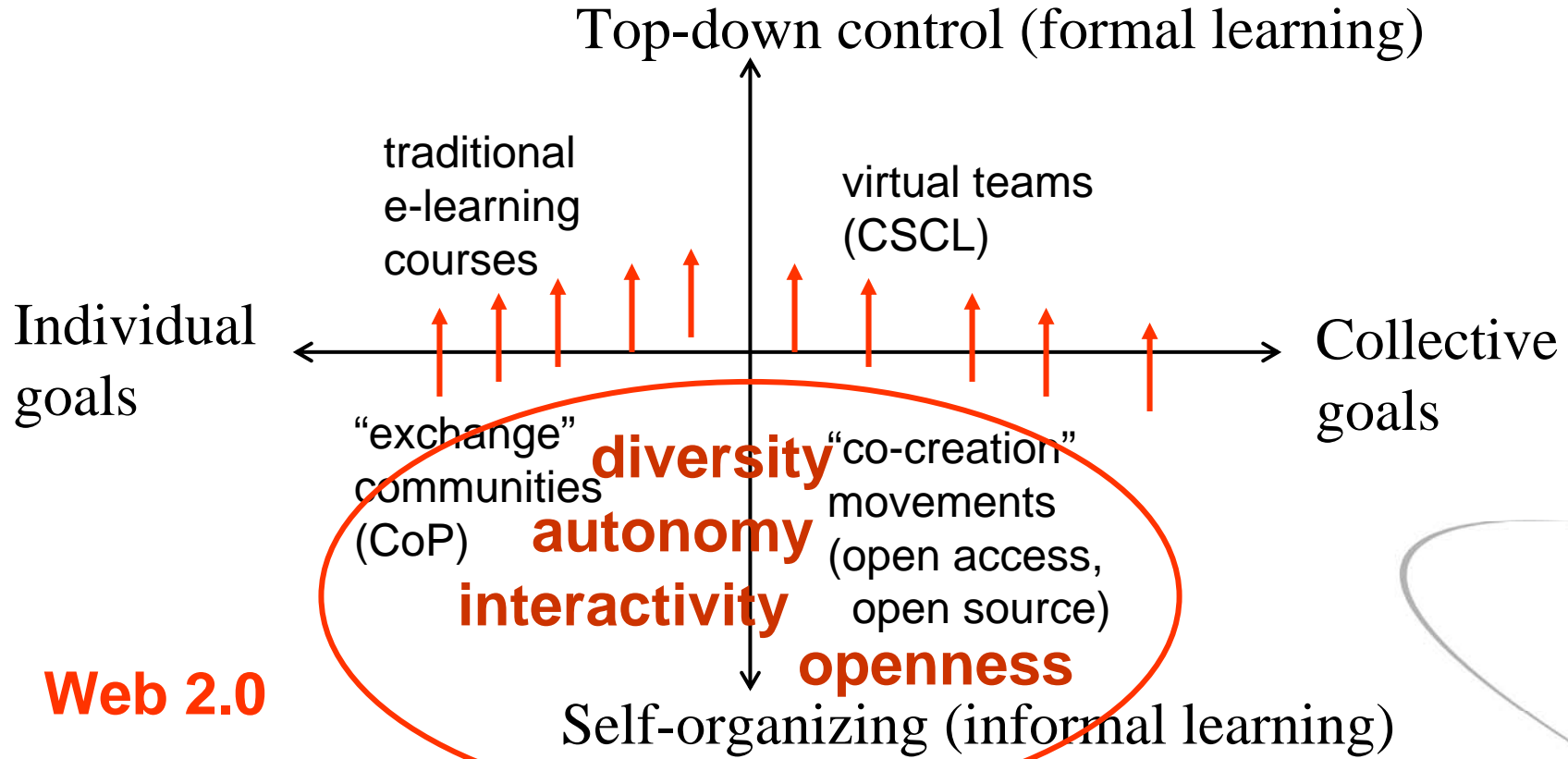
- Content (co-)creation: weblogs, wiki's
- Voice: rating & review systems
- Profiling / socializing: sharing your identity, life
- Exchange / socializing: sharing media, taste
- Real-time communication: audio, video
- Information collection and filtering: news feeds



Learning Networks



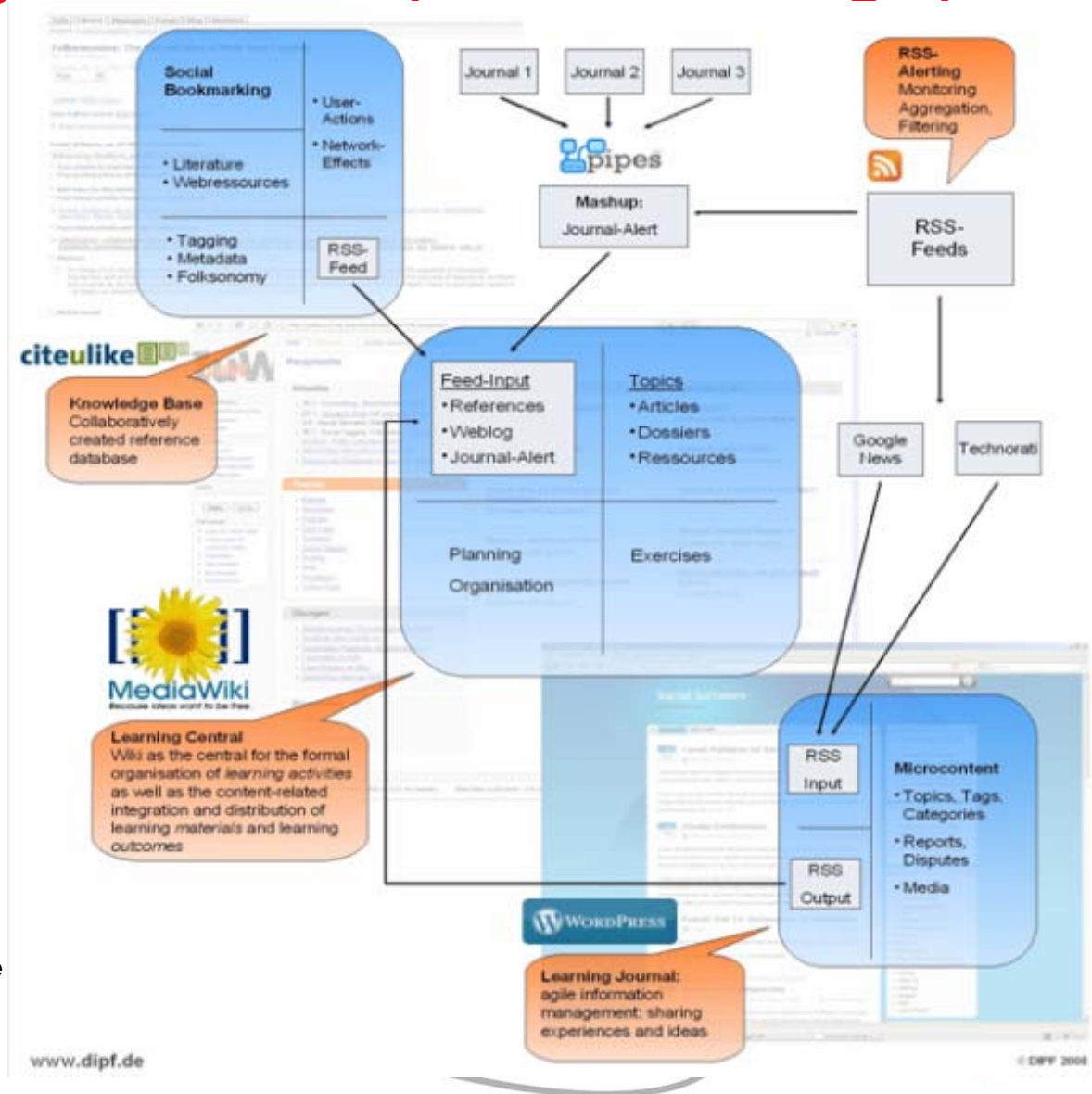
Learning Networks 2.0 (Downes)



Web 2.0



Web 2.0 Learning environment (Blees & Rittberger)



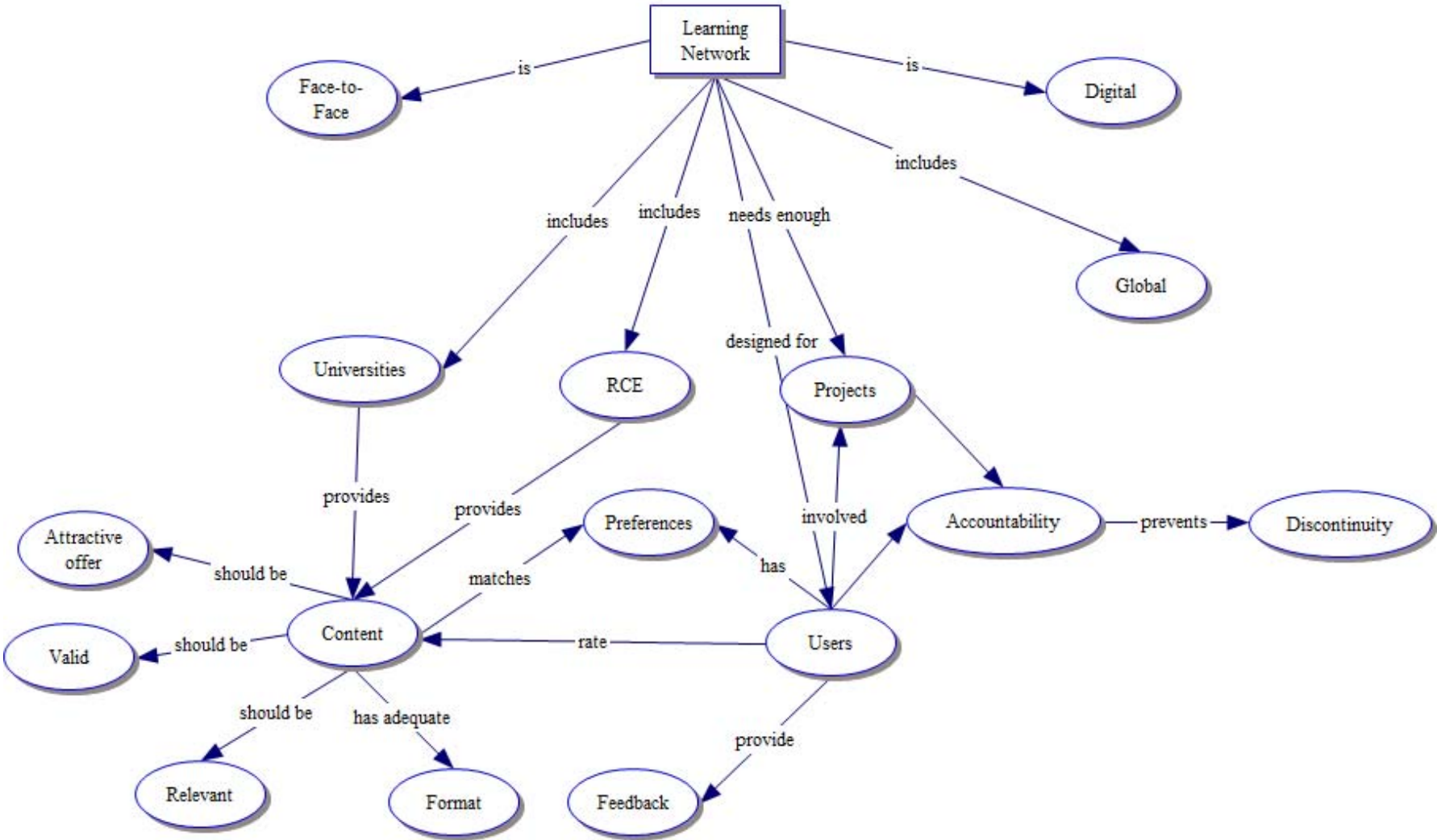
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Lifelong Learning Networks for Sustainable Regional Development

- 3-LENSUS-project:
explore potential of learning networks with web 2.0 features and technology to support regional learning for SD
 - * more creativity
 - * more interactivity & sharing (demand & supply)
 - * more openness
 - * more self-organisation
- Needs assessment with five RCEs (Austria, Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, UK, Sweden)
- Pilot in collaboration with SUN-project (Sustainable Urban Neighbourhood Development)



Needs assessment with RCEs: concept map of regional learning network



Needs assessment with RCEs

- Key requirements:
 - Open and accessible
 - High quality and practical knowledge
 - Variety of functionalities for individual, mutual, and collective learning
 - Active matching of knowledge users and providers
 - Theme-based for defined target groups
- Major challenges:
 - Quality assurance of provided and produced knowledge in network
 - Continuity of interactions within the network
 - Incentives for knowledge sharing and joint production



Case study: SUN (European Interreg IVa project)

- To improve the quality of life through sustainable development in the deprived urban neighbourhoods of major cities in the Rhine-Meuse Euregion
- Targets:
 - new companies & jobs
 - green infrastructure
 - insulation of houses
 -



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SUN-project

the heritage of early industrialisation of Rhine-Meuse region

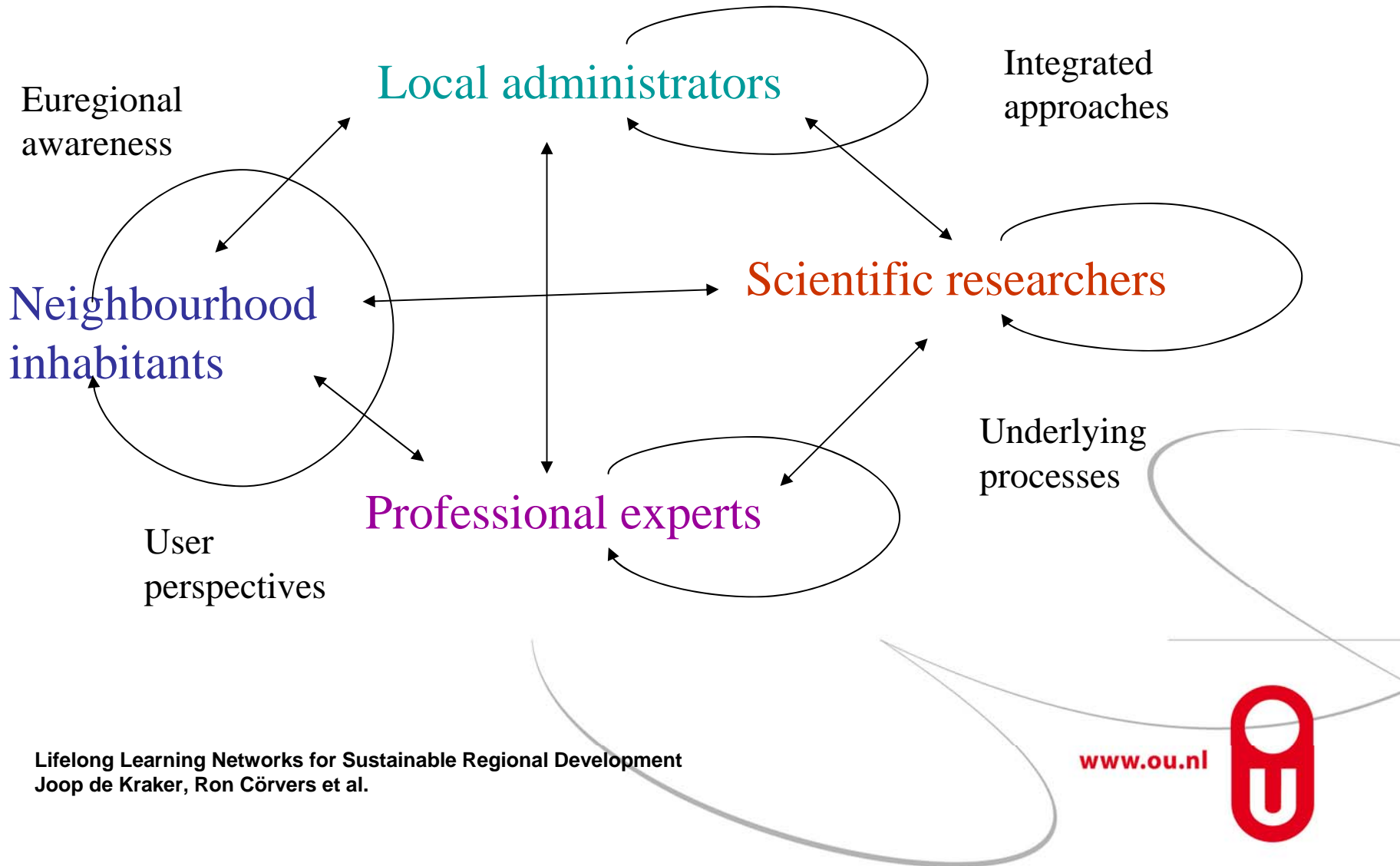


SUN: 14 partners

- 5 cities + neighbourhoods:
Heerlen (NL), Genk (B), Liège (B), Verviers (B), Eupen (B)
- 4 universities:
University of Liège, Maastricht University, University of Hasselt, Fachhochschule Aachen
- 5 public/private agencies:
economic development, cultural entrepreneurship, renovation,
cultural exchange, sustainable construction



SUN: Euregional learning for sustainable development



Learning Network for SUN: challenges

- Quality assurance: task for university partners?
- Incentives: during and after project?
- Roles: non-hierarchical
- Regional setting: blending face-to-face with virtual?
- Two-way interaction & co-creation: how to cross boundaries?
- Neighbourhood inhabitants: how to involve large numbers?
- Learning objectives vs. concrete targets: contribution?



Learning Network for SUN: perspectives

- Incentive for active participation & learning: “social monitoring” (monitoring data as ‘boundary object’)
- Web 2.0 features:
 - rating & feedback for quality assurance
 - on-line citizen forums for monitoring perceived QoL
 - co-creation with wiki’s (Google Translate?)
 - profiles for social networking & matching supply-demand
 - feeds from other SUN-like initiatives
 -



Issues for discussion

- Involvement of universities in Regional Sustainable Development often problematical:
 - can we create exciting transdisciplinary labs with learning networks?
- Non-hierarchical communities in Web 2.0



Social reality in the region:

- can we ignore socio-political reality in learning networks?
- Can we use power & interests constructively?

