Abstract

Social, technological and economical change make it necessary for individuals to continuously develop and advance themselves and their competences. As a result of these changing conditions, students need to receive a comprehensive education. Learning in times of dynamic change calls for methods which teach large audiences up-to-date topics in a cost efficient way for companies and public education carriers are exposed to rising costs. Computer supported solutions, also referred to as e-learning, are perceived as a possibility to increase the quality of education while simultaneously lowering costs.

The case method is a found pedagogical teaching and learning method which focuses on the application of knowledge and promotes group work. It provides the opportunities to analyze, make decisions and formulate plans upon the decisions. In recent times this method has been subject to change for extensions and further developments regarding state of the art technologies have been developed and implemented. Within this thesis a conceptual design for a web-based case method is developed. Technological aspects are considered, however in accordance to the shift in paradigms concerning e-learning, the pedagogical and didactical perspective is focused on. The pedagogical perspective of this thesis is manifested through the procedures used within it. The development of the conceptual design builds on empirical studies which were conducted for the scope of this thesis. The outlined conceptual design is realized within a specific context. This specific setting is within a university concentrating on the subject Operations Research. The implementation of the conceptual design emphasizes its realizability.