

Exchanging ideas to jointly construct knowledge with the DUNES environment

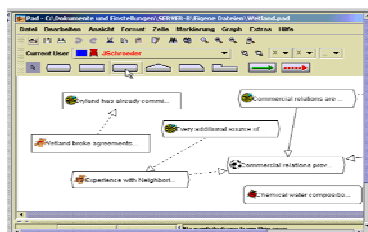
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The DUNES multimedia environment

What?

An interactive environment aiming at developing argumentative skills.



By whom?

Developed and tested by four technicians teams from France, Germany and Greece and five pedagogical teams from Netherlands, Israël, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom (5th Framework Program)

For what purpose?

Dunes provides means for modelling, supporting and visualising argumentative discussions in learning and workplace settings. The usages and the contexts of use are various.

The goal of the Institute of Psychology

In collaboration with the school authorities and teachers in Neuchâtel, the Institute of Psychology has systematically observed the way teachers and pupils use the DUNES tool.

As DUNES is very flexible, it allows different pedagogical goals in different contexts (primary and secondary school level, vocational school, University, workplace settings...)

Three examples of pedagogical use

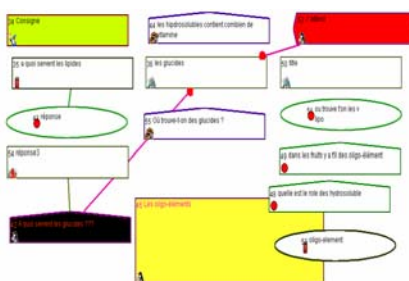
Learning argumentation structure

The teacher prepares a DUNES map with different shapes before the activity. A first group fills in the map in order to represent the structure of the argumentation from an article they had read previously. A second group checks and modifies the map constructed by the first group if needed.



Learning argumentation in interaction

Three groups of three pupils search information on the Net on a given issue. Then they create an argumentative map on DUNES, asking and challenging each other, using the information collected.



Learning argumentation through role playing

Three groups of students role-play the historical Valladolid Controversy. They first read texts about the controversy context; then they create a preliminary map preparing their arguments to defend their role-played position, and finally debate via a DUNES map.



DUNES provides two types of learning experiences:

Learning argumentation: with DUNES students learn to participate in a debate, to construct and formulate an argument, to articulate different perspectives to a same topic...

Learning from argumentation: with DUNES students learn that argumentation is at the heart of sciences, helps them to grasp the complexity of a topic, to understand certain concepts, permits to coordinate the variety of opinions...