E-Learning and 21st Century Competences

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Abstract:
From the beginning of the 21st century, a number of international organizations and research institutes such as Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the European Union (EU), the World Bank, and also research ventures or consortiums such as Assessment and Teaching of 21st Century Skills (ATCS21) and Partnership for 21st Century skills (P21) have been advocating that learners should be fully prepared with 21st century competences to live and work in an information-age society.

While multiple conceptualisations of 21st century competences have been outlined by diverse organizations, 'ICT literacy', 'problem-solving', 'critical thinking', 'creativity', 'communication', 'collaboration', and 'Initiative & self-direction' are commonly regarded as essential competences.

The aim of this paper is to discuss the potential of E-learning to support the development of 21st century competences as stated above. Specifically, It will be discussed how effectively E-learning using OER and web 2.O tools, such as social networks, blogs, online communities etc., is able to equip online learners with fundamental competences which are necessary for living in the 21st century.