The second transnational meeting of the pilot project "eTex" – the virtual way to textile knowledge – took place from 16 to 17 March in the department textile and clothing technology of the Hochschule Niederrhein – Niederrhein University of Applied Sciences in the traditional textile city Mönchengladbach.

Twelve partners from six European countries participate in the pilot project running for six months now, which is sponsored by the European program Leonardo da Vinci. Also, researchers of the department textile and clothing technology are working under the lead of Prof. Dr.-Ing. Marc Weber at this innovative program, as the institute communicated. The goal is the development of a virtual learning environment which supports the learning process as well as the appertaining teaching and learning materials for the further training and continuing education of young people in the textile industry.

The course materials that have to be developed for the learning environment are supposed to familiarize the trainees of the textile profession with the content of knitting. Further modules are planned. Since companies nowadays are often highly specialized there are usually not all process steps of the textile chain found in one firm anymore. The eTex-learning environment needs to show to the trainees who do not come into contact with the subject knitting in their own company all processes represented in a succinct way, says the university bulletin.

On the other hand all the important processes should be clarified and theory and practice related to each other. Contrary to the conventional teaching and learning materials like textbooks and transparencies the advantages of the electronic media take full effect here. Photographs, videos, animations, interactive exercises, researching tasks in the internet, tests for the supervision of learning success, diverse possibilities for the synchronous or asynchronous communication like mail and chat are here the most important elements used. A further accompaniment to this form of learning, which is also called “Blended learning”, not to be scoffed at is the rising attractiveness of the offered learning matter and therefore of the whole course.

At the project meeting in Mönchengladbach just now the draft of the course of instruction was the main focus, where scientists will develop electronic lectures and exercises each for their special areas. Already created material like e.g. animations for different bindings or video sequences to clarify how to form meshes have been presented and their aspects of application discussed. Furthermore, different kinds of exercises were shown that can be used for study monitoring. After the project finishes in September next year the trainees will have therefore subjects for altogether about 180 hours of instruction on the learning platform and as offline version on DVD, resp., at their disposal. Project director and -coordinator Uwe Hoppe (uwe.hoppe@bsw-ev.de) from the project- and work center Saxony in the Training Center of the Saxonian Economy e.V. (Bildungswerk der Sächsischen Wirtschaft e.V. = bsw) in Chemnitz showed himself to be very satisfied with the results of the meeting. The participants of the last eTex-meeting came from the University Niederrhein, the Technical
University of Lodz/Poland, from the TU Liberec/Czechia, from the bsw (Uwe Hoppe), from the University Leeds/England, from Czechia the Textile Association ATOK in Praha, the University Minho/Portugal.

As Textination heard from Dr. Andrea Tillmanns (Andrea.Tillmanns@HS-Niederrhein.de) in the research team of Prof. Dr.-Ing. Marc Weber, the first meeting of the pilot project took place in Dresden, the third will be from 19 to 20 June 2006 in Lodz. The teaching-DVD will be distributed beginning September 2007 over the bsw (also in English). For the next module within the framework of the European project the subject spinning is planned. The area weaving has been treated already in a predecessor project.

The website of the eTex-project is [www.etex-online.net](http://www.etex-online.net). Information about this innovative project can be obtained from:

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