THE NEW LEARNING CULTURE?
ICT AND COMPETENCES IN ENGINEERS’ HIGHER EDUCATION

With the emergence of the information society and the growing influence of information and communication technology (ICT) there appears the necessity to develop a new conception of learning and teaching culture, especially in the fields of higher education. At first the both – teaching and learning – are social practice, social acts. Therefore the question is «how the technological transformation of social practice like teaching and learning can be realized and what consequences are associated therewith» (Unger 2007: 213). The new learning culture with ICT contains at the same time the necessity to re-define the competences and final result of teaching and learning process. Furthermore, the new technologies of education demand a new methodology, i.e. new order of study programmes and
new strategy by study planning with introduction and dissemination of interdisciplinary programmes. The new technology of telecommunication makes it possible to simulate, to form and to arrange interactive learning and teaching processes by using network technology. Therefore network as a medium serves not only as a space of information and knowledge transfer, but it is also a space of creating and establishing new forms – or perhaps new culture – of communication. This change and also forming of new communication involve modification of the traditional understanding the bounds and borders as barriers for social interaction and social mobility, which with the technological and spatial turn become more flexible and fluent. In this sense technology as a medium become an in-between in educational process (an in-between of sender and receiver). And in this point of view technology as a medium and an in-between can influence and determine the individuals and the society as whole, so that the human relations to the others, to the nature and to the cultures «is largely mediated by technical media» (Unger 2007: 215). In the following considerations the question is how to create and moderate the new learning culture basing on the responsible use of the new ICT in form of e-learning and mobile learning.