



### **CIPS: an alternative to commercial social networks**

Proponent of this demo is the International Association Akcio. The association is formed by a group of educators and technology experts dedicated to the development of free and open source educational tools at the service of citizens and online collaborative learning (OCL).

A Community Information and Participation System is a computer-mediated communication system that allows members of a community - for example, citizens of a certain region or province - to interact with information that affect them in a way that is creative, respectful of privacy and without intermediaries. The concept was developed earlier than the current commercial social networks (Facebook, Twitter), which are based on the presence and control of the "medium" by a private company, and maintains elements of interest even after the success of the latter.

The purpose of CIPS is to allow members of a community -as people involved in a continuous learning process- not only to find the information they need organized according to a given criteria, but to interact with this information to reorganize it in ways that better match the needs of the community.

To support this process of reorganizing the CIPS is provided with a discussion forum that presents innovative elements from the pedagogical point of view, at the service of real computer supported collaborative learning (CSCL) such as:

- spaces for discussion organized in a hierarchical way (the conferences);
- detailed statistics by user and by discussion
- advanced tools at the service of discussion analysis
- tools for analysing interactions between participants in the discussion
- tools for discussion-based audio messages in support or total replacement of the text tools

During this demo the first public version of a software platform, called Akcio, will be presented. Akcio implements this theoretical concept through a free and open source software, which can be adopted by individuals, groups or communities without any license fees. The discussants will also provide practical examples of use of the software taken from the experience of some members of Akcio International with participants from five continents.

Akcio means "to share" in Esperanto.