

Mobile Virtual Work

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(Editors)

Mobile Virtual Work

A New Paradigm?

With 60 Figures and 26 Tables

 Springer

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Preface

Dear Reader

This is a book about mobile virtual work. It aims at clarifying the basic concepts and showing present practices and future challenges. The roots of the book are in the collaboration of few European practitioners and researchers, who met each other under the umbrella of the Swedish SALTSA programme (see next page) in January 2002 in Stockholm. The group was first called ‘ICT, Mobility and Work Organisation’ but redefined itself quickly as ‘Mobile Virtual Cooperative Work’ group. The change of the name reflects the development of reasoning in the group. We could not find much material on mobile work, certainly not systematic studies, although a growing interest in mobile technologies and services could be found. Practices of telework and virtual organizations were better known, but we were convinced that the combination with mobile work was something different and new. Our main target became to understand what it was all about.

The next step was an expert meeting in October 2004 at Rånäs Castle again in Sweden. A wider group of experts was invited to present their views on mobile virtual work and ideas about book chapters from different perspectives of working life. Some of the expertise could be found through the network of the AMI@Work family created by the New Working Environments unit of the European Commission’s Information Society Directorate-General. Also close collaboration was developed with the related MOSAIC program.

Today, much more is known about mobile work systems as can be seen in the following chapters. There are now many other researchers and practitioners in this field. Mobile business models are being developed, bringing along human, organizational and societal challenges.

With this book we realise our intention to present a ‘state of the art’ collection of knowledge on this subject. We very much hope that you will find the discussion about present day reality and future challenges of mobile virtual work as exciting as we do. It is possibly a new paradigm.

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SALTSA

A Joint Programme for Working Life Research in Europe

SALTSA is a programme for research on European working life run in close co-operation by the National Institute for Working Life in Sweden and the Swedish Confederation of Trade Unions (LO), the Swedish Confederation of Professional Employess (TCO) and the Swedish Confederation of Professional Associations (SACO).

The aim of SALTSA is to generate applicable research results of high academic standard and practical relevance. Research is carried out in areas like labour market and employment, labour law, work organisation and health and safety.

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Part 1

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