The Virtual Institute (VI) is a community learning portal for interpreting students, interpreter trainers and doctoral researchers. The VI integrates theory and scientific knowledge, continuing development according to emerging needs, and ongoing evaluation and is based on design theory for socio-constructivist blended courses. In response to curricular needs for skill acquisition the VI features several tools: the Student Tracking Tool for formative and summative evaluation; EVITA for supervised interpreter training; and Pscenario for syllabus design. The portal has recently been the subject of a thorough scientific evaluation (see Class Abboud, B., 2009) which will inform the fine-tuning of existing tools and provide guidance for the development of new functionalities.

The Virtual Institute is socio-constructivist, the guiding key concepts are: activity-based learning, knowledge building and skill development, intrinsic motivation, collaboration, reflection and sustainable evaluation.

http://virtualinstitute.eti.unige.ch