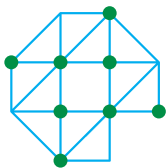


Blend your education

Digital learning environment

Instruction



Acceleration plan

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Facilitating professional
development of lecturers

Digital learning environment

TARGET GROUP	Lecturers
FORM	Manual
TIME NEEDED	Variable
LEVEL	Course programme

Background

Without a digital learning environment where students can find all the information they need for their course of study – and where they can hand in assignments and engage in learning activities – blended learning is impossible. The digital learning environment is the first place students look when a module starts and the last place they go to when they hand in the final assignment and complete the module. This makes the digital learning environment an essential hub in any educational programme. Designing that learning environment smartly and efficiently is therefore essential for its success and practicability.

Many educational institutions have in recent years switched to a new and comprehensive learning management system (LMS), such as Moodle, Canvas, Brightspace or Blackboard Ultra. These kinds of systems provide a total user experience rather than a collection of multiple, separate tools. The migration of systems and data has been an immense undertaking and, for many courses, is still ongoing. In addition to overcoming the technical challenges of a new system, users – especially lecturers – also need to learn about and start using the didactic possibilities of their LMS. In an LMS, much more is possible than ‘just’ sharing resources, such as slide shows and articles. A well-designed LMS provides space for different learning routes, peer feedback, numerous assessment activities and opportunities for online collaboration – but how do you get it right?

Method

This guide provides detailed information on how to set up an LMS as a true digital environment for learning, for instance by fostering interaction, feedback and different learning pathways. You can use this guide as a reference and a source of inspiration for setting up the digital learning environment as part of your course or module.



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Justification and sources

This publication is based on a number of existing guides, manuals and blogs on setting up digital learning environments. We have sought practical principles for this guide that can be quickly deployed in the user's own context.

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The Acceleration Plan for Educational Innovation with ICT is a four-year programme focused on bringing initiatives, knowledge, and experiences for digitalisation together. The programme is an initiative of SURF, the Netherlands Association of Universities of Applied Sciences, and the Association of Universities, and is organised in eight acceleration zones. In the zone Facilitating professional development for lecturers, 16 institutions are working on improving the professional development of lecturers in Dutch higher education.



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