

Newsletter Vol. 2

June 2021



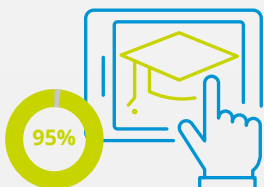
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Curricular modernization by implementing MOOCs model/MODE IT

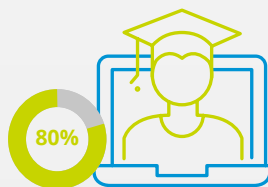
MODE IT stands for the Erasmus+ project „**Curricular modernization by implementing MOOCs model**“, which started on the 1st of October 2019 and has been carrying out by five higher education institutions from Germany, Lithuania, Turkey, Portugal, and Romania. The project seeks to introduce innovative MOOC-based pedagogical approaches to the design and delivery of higher education courses.

MODE IT Intellectual Outputs (IOs):



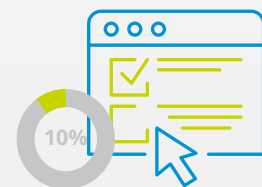
IO1:

Online self-assessment tool for academic staff (piloting completed)



IO2:

Open online training program for teachers (pilot testing)



IO3:

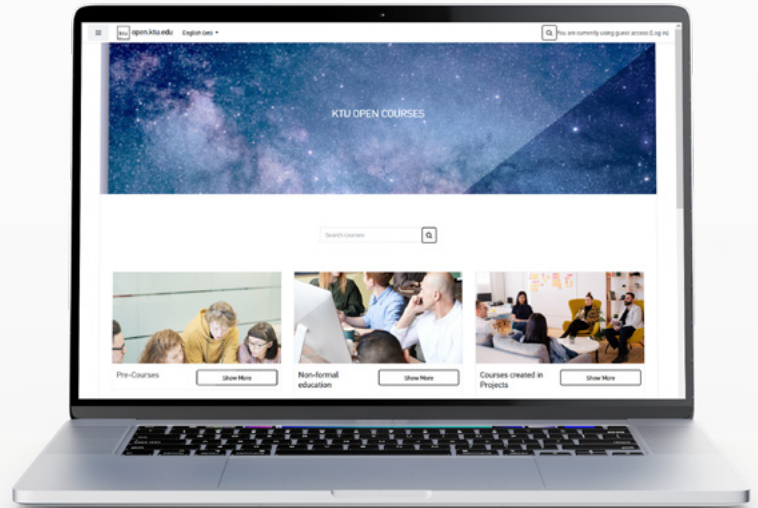
MOOC-based higher education curricula (in preparation)

IO1: Online Self-Assessment Tool

The MODE IT team is happy to announce the completion of the IO1 Online self-assessment tool!

Online Self-Assessment tool in a nutshell:

- Helps identify users' individual level of proficiency on competences in relation to MOOC design and delivery in real-time;
- Covers 27 competences in the domains of Pedagogy and Technology;
- Provides immediate suggestions for competence improvements;
- Linked to the training modules to increase missing competences in relation to MOOC design and delivery;
- Available in English, German, Lithuanian, Portuguese, Romanian, and Turkish languages;
- Embedded into the LMS Moodle: <https://open.ktu.edu/course/index.php?categoryid=24>;
- Open access and free of charge use.

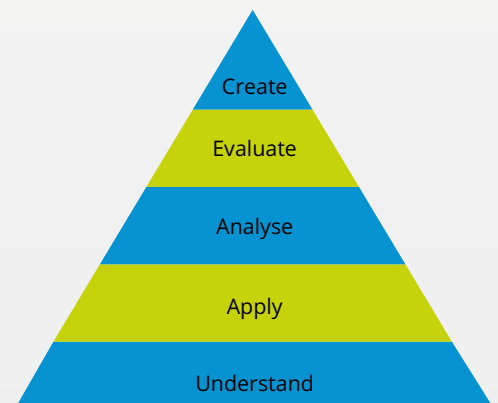


How does the tool look like?

The tool takes the form of an online survey, covering 27 competences from the domains of Pedagogy and Technology. These competences were identified by MODE IT experts as the most relevant ones for the successful creation and delivery of MOOCs. The 27 competences are categorized into five relevant groups, which are:

- AREA 1: Pedagogical competences for designing student-centered learning;
- AREA 2: MOOCs specific competences;
- AREA 3: Technology-related competences;
- AREA 4: Competences related to the theoretical foundations of MOOCs;
- AREA 5: Competences about integration of MOOCs into formal learning.

During the self-assessment, a user is invited to check his or her level of proficiency on each competence by indicating only one of the statements that best characterizes the user's current competence level. We have used Bloom's taxonomy to formulate the answer statements. Each set of possible answers to the question consists of 7 statements. 6 statements correspond to 6 levels of the cognitive domain from Bloom's taxonomy. If the user does not have any experience with competence, he or she is asked to tick the option "No statement applies to me".



The self-assessment tool is embedded into the Moodle environment of the MODE IT partner Kaunas University of Technology (KTU), who led the production and implementation of this output.

Benefits of the tool

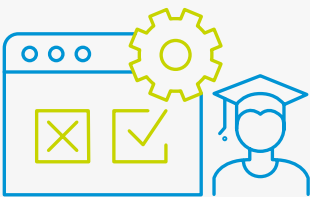
By using the tool, a person is able to self-estimate his or her proficiency level and receive immediate, real-time feedback on individual competences, which are necessary for designing and developing MOOCs. Furthermore, the tool also gives suggestions for possible improvements, unless, of course, you already have a high skill level in a specific domain.

However, merely knowing your competence level does not help much, therefore our international team has also prepared a corresponding online training program aimed to further develop skills and competences, ne-

cessary to succeed when working with MOOCs (IO2 of the MODE IT project). Depending on the identified proficiency levels, the tool offers personalized suggestions on what modules of the training program one should enrol in, ensuring that you gain the maximum benefit in the shortest amount of time. Read more about the online training program in our next newsletter!



Pilot testing of the tool



In order to test the quality, effectiveness and perception of the tool, 64 teachers from 5 MODE IT institutions took part in the piloting of the tool (Mid of March till mid of April 2021). The piloting was focused on determining participants'

general satisfaction, user-friendliness and accessibility of the tool as well as on the effectiveness of the tool in identifying individual strengths and weaknesses in terms of competences. Upon completing the self-assessment tool, pilot participants were asked to provide their feedback on the above aspects by filling in an evaluation form.

Perception of the tool

We were happy to receive a positive and constructive feedback on different aspects of the tool! Users claimed that the tool was easy to use, offered precise information and provided a supportive, encouraging and detailed feedback. Just have a look at what pilot teachers think about their experience with the tool:

The effectiveness and unique nature of the tool make it innovative and applicable, especially in the context of the pandemic. At the same time, piloting offered a range of viable ideas that can be successfully implemented in the future, maybe in the scope of next projects!

"A real evaluation of the personal teaching skills with regard to the modern teaching strategies"

"It is nice to have a simple interface and understandable language"

"Very nice balance between information and survey"

"Explaining the theoretical terms in a very clear way"

"Good idea to use Bloom's taxonomy"

"Thought of the unthinkable, motivating, creative, gathering!"

How to access and use the online self-assessment tool?

Currently our team is implementing final actions towards opening the tool to wider audience. We will provide the instructions on using the tool in our next newsletter, which will be available by the end of October 2021. Follow our developments!



What is coming next?

On May 24, we have started the pilot testing of the next MODE IT output, which is the Open Online Training Program for teachers. This training program is designed as a MOOC and aims to enable teachers at higher education institutions to develop and deliver MOOCs as well as to integrate MOOCs into formal curricula in a didactically sound manner.

Interested in growing into a MOOC designer? We will inform you about this unique opportunity in our next newsletter, which will be published by the end of October 2021.



Program:

Erasmus+, Key action 2: Strategic Partnerships for higher education



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Project lifetime:

October 1, 2019 – March 31, 2022



Project coordinator:

Fachhochschule des Mittelstands (FHM)



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