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About the Advantages of Blended Learning Technologies

The 2nd National Distance Learning Conference

***Defence Institution Building School / Ministry of Defence
of Georgia***

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Courtyard by Marriott Tbilisi Hotel – Grand Ballroom

- We Live in a Project-Based and Digital World

- ***Knowledge and skills through engaging projects***
- ***Blended Learning***
- ***E-moderating and the reflective practitioner/teacher***
- ***Dealing with an e-learning platform***
- ***Online-Portfolios to support students' reflection processes***
- ***Online learning material production***
- ***Online tools to support Project Based Learning***
- ***Assisted work in the group projects***

Basic Advantages of Blended Learning

- ***Decreases the number of contact hours***
- ***Increases student engagement, including the ones working***
- ***The possibility to develop multiple skills at the same time***
- ***Increase the quality of teaching and learning***
- ***Diversification of communication ways/methods between student and lecturer***

Blended learning

- We should focus on hybrid/blended teaching and learning which permits to integrate e-learning into educational process successfully.

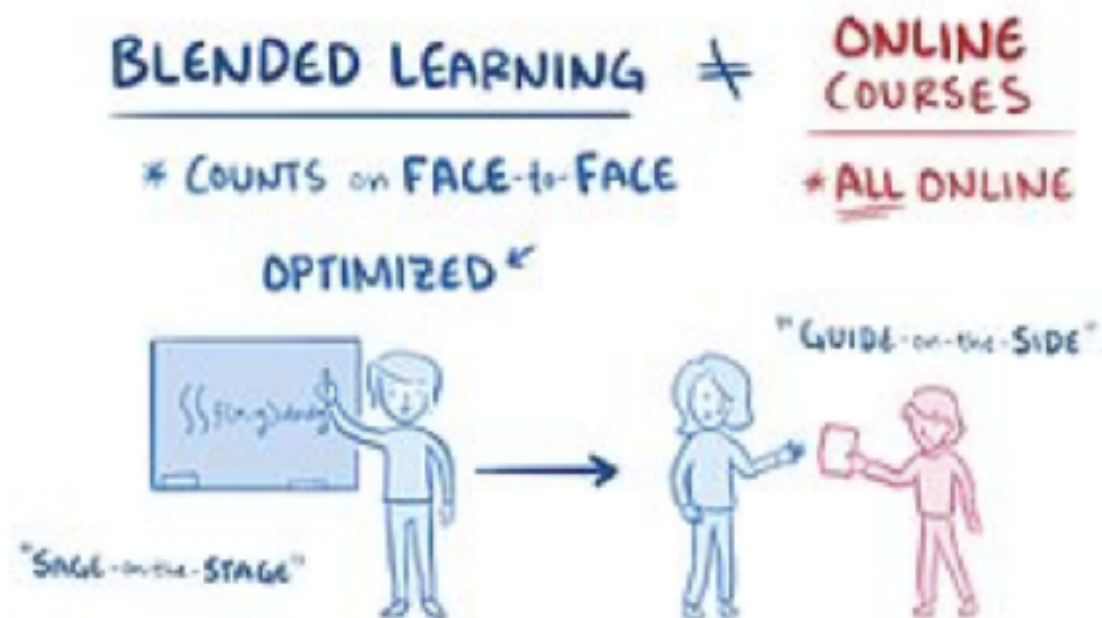


- In a frame of blended learning different on-line platforms (Slack, Zoom, Skype, Moodle, etc.) may be used for fast and distant communication with students and uploading of the educational materials.
- Emergent learning as another modern and effective approach in teaching leads to thought-provoking, brainstorming, finding of own educational path and flexibility for learners.
- E-Learning gives the chance to make a clear structure of the course for both teachers and students especially in intercommunication.

- Intercommunication by online is quick opportunity for understanding of concepts and key ideas.

E-moderating and the reflective practitioner

- Concerning the maintenance and moderation of an on-line learning environment for the benefit of participators creates a new image of a teacher being a facilitator of educational context.



- The main interventions of e-moderator are support and monitoring of activity, facilitation, summarization, feedback, etc.
- The benefits for educational process might be participants interaction and communication through modeling, conveying and building knowledge and skills.

Moodle

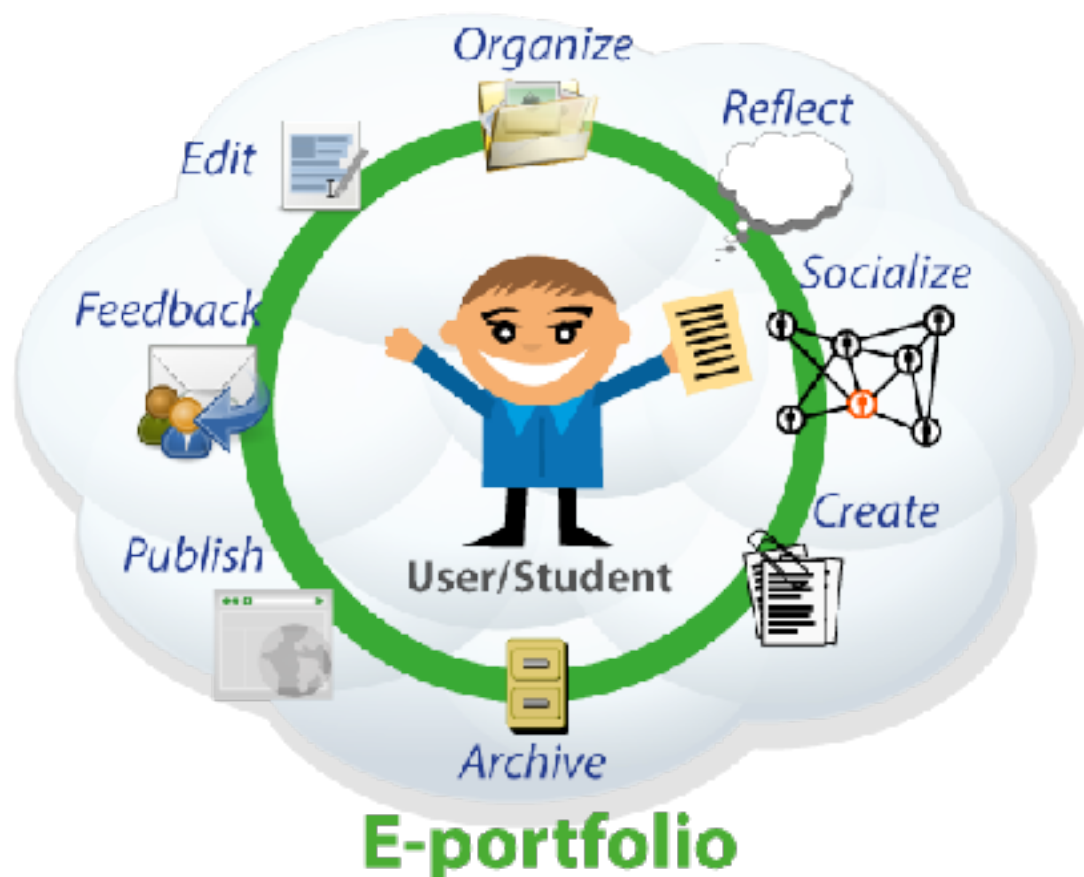
- This platform permits to create different on-line courses with a focus on interaction and collaborative construction of content.

The screenshot displays the Moodle LMS interface for the 'PRINTeL Online Course'. The top navigation bar includes the 'FH JOANNEUM' logo, a search bar, and the user profile 'Zsolt Bencsikvill'. The main content area features a central banner with the text 'Welcome to the PRINTeL Online Course' and a photograph of a path through a forest with vibrant autumn foliage. Below the banner, there are three notification items: 'Participants messages, Questions and Answers', 'Callendaria - Deadline Thursday 8:11:58:02', and 'Presentation of Projects'. The left sidebar contains a 'NAVIGATION' menu with options like 'Site home', 'Site pages', 'Current course', and 'My courses'. The right sidebar includes a 'SEARCH FORUMS' section, 'UPCOMING EVENTS', and 'RECENT ACTIVITY'.

- Offering several activities like assignment, chat, choice, database, external tool, feedback, forum, glossary, etc.
- The Moodle facilitates for uploading of different resources. With Moodle, teaching materials are accessible anytime anywhere, courses can be structured individually, users activities on Moodle are reported, it is transparency.

E-portfolios

- On-line portfolio as digital collection of skillfully completed works allows to document and represent the product (knowledge) and the process (learning curve/ increase of knowledge) of a person's achieved competences within a specific time period following a particular learning goal.



- Different types of e-portfolios like development, showcase, job application, assessment, presentation, research, project portfolios focus on various educational goals.
- It is a four step process: presence in experience, description of experience, analysis of experience and experimentation. In addition, factors that affect efficiency of e-portfolio were listed and discussed.
- Such kind of factors can be grouped into five classes. The first class is institutional implementation (media infrastructure, staff development in e-portfolio pedagogy, etc.).
- Second one is didactical implementation, for instance, assessment criteria or integration and communication in the learning process.
- Next two classes include factor that work at student (motivation, technical competence, etc.) or teacher (motivation, competence, etc.) levels.
- There exist also factors from module structure. This technology provides the opportunities for both future employers and students.

Development of the on-line materials

- Development of the on-line video materials and using of MOOC concept for massive open learning have great educational potential.

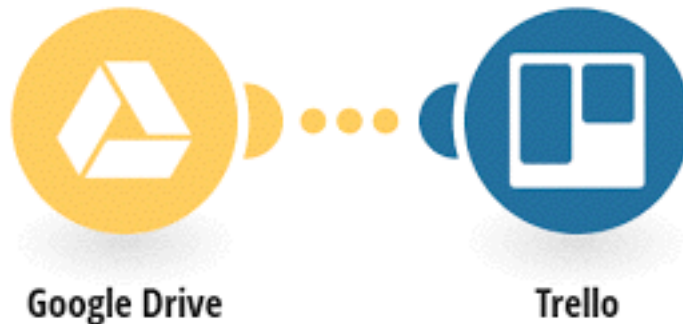


- For on-line teaching and learning, six main approaches in production of video materials can be used: screencast (video screen capture), interview, stop motion (animated-film making), time-lapse, using green screen studio, and speech with/without presentation.

- MOOC is free on-line course available to enroll. This approach introduces some advantages in hybrid/blended teaching and learning: it is accessed for hundreds of learners, there is no entry restrictions, it is a good basic for networking and can also provide expert inputs, can include testing and quizzes.
- The typical duration of one MOOC course is 4-6 weeks. Theoretical part of module and intensive discussion was practiced in two group works: development, recording and presentation of a short video.

Online tools

- Project-based learning as an approach gives students the opportunity to develop knowledge and skills through engaging projects set around challenges and problems they may face.



- There exist different on-line tools for project collaboration. Google and Trello tools allow to create a project trying different opportunities: integrating group members, create tasks, sharing of the project, discussing of impressions and give feedback.
- On-line tools have great potential for project courses and management because they permit to: i) store different educational materials, ii) share these materials between learners, iii) give feedbacks, iv) manage and organize any kind of projects.

Implementation of e-learning into traditional face-to-face educational process provides really great opportunities for personal development of a teacher-facilitator and the learners, transfers the knowledge-gaining process into flexible, entertaining and exciting individual path.

- **More practical experience in project management**
- **E-portfolios can help them assess own skills and approach potential employers**
- **Experience with multimedia can be useful in any future profession**
- **More authenticity and independence important for “real world”**
- **Strong learning skills More creative and practice-based assignments**

Recommendations to Government

- Support and encouragement of E-Learning Technologies through the Georgian Education System.

Thank you very much for your attention!