

Tech it easy!

MOODLE: a useful platform for learning in and outside the class

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MOODLE (Modular Object-Oriented Dynamic Learning Environment) is one of the most popular open-source programmes for e-learning. It is an effective tool to help educators design engaging online courses based on constructivist social pedagogy. Intuitive and friendly, it allows the creation of a collaborative online space accessible by eliminating barriers to face-to-face courses.

Initially intended for distance education, it is currently used by teachers and educators from all over the world to develop online learning websites as well as blended and hybrid courses. Tackling students' needs, specific and unique to their age, interests, and backgrounds, is a key advantage of MOODLE. After the pandemic, the desire for flexible learning has steadily increased, MOODLE courses could be the correct answer. It enables the opportunity to develop a valuable skill set in a self-paced path, also considering it in a lifelong learning frame.

According to UDL guidelines, MOODLE allows for addressing the diverse needs of learners and the development of an inclusive learning environment. In the design process, you can provide a flexible and varied pathway, ensuring multiple means of action and expression, engagement and representation of the content. In fact, course content could have a variety of delivery formats including video, podcasts, tests, quizzes, webinars, wiki-collaborative learning tools, surveys, polls, and much more. MOODLE enhances collaborative learning through forums, wikis, chats and groups to share ideas and work together on tasks to increase engagement and outcome success.

Each student, including Special Needs, may benefit from collaborative activities, personalized tasks, flexible timing and knowledge retention. The endless opportunities to review the audio-visual content and to be able to re-attempt the tasks help in the consolidation of the target knowledge.

On the other hand, teachers can supervise assignments and time-consuming assessments and track students' achievements using activities, course completion, course reports, analytics and grade books. As with all other teaching tools, achieving the desired outcomes depends on how the teachers integrate them within a high-quality and well-designed pedagogical practice.

For all the reasons outlined above, MOODLE is a powerful tool for Language learning. Thanks to the possibility of using multimedia tools anytime and anywhere, testing for self-evaluation and availability of audio/video materials, e.g., MOODLE, could be very helpful for introducing and sharing European Language Portfolio (ELP) in the classroom. It supports the development of learner autonomy, plurilingualism and intercultural awareness; additionally, it allows users to record their language learning achievements and their experience of learning using languages.

Furthermore, MOODLE has a multilingual capability which enables users to access and take advantage of the platform in any language. It is available with a language pack making learning inclusive for any culture. To make it more accessible and inclusive, teachers can also design their own course content in more than one language. In short, an international student who recently arrived in the country could benefit from this capability.

From the perspective of teacher training, MOODLE represents a perfect tool for in-service training based on the specific Institutional requirements creating collaborative workspaces in which teachers could share materials and best practices. Performing peer-to-peer training could be a response to the innovative challenges involving the school.

