



Internationalisation of Teacher Education through E-Learning

Online Course *Primary Education*

Günter Renner

Internationalisation of teacher education through e-learning: online course *Primary Education*

“In their professional sphere, **teaching staff is increasingly required to handle heterogeneous groups of learners characterised by cultural diversity** – a task that they will be able to perform better if they obtained intercultural skills during their training. **The internationalisation of teacher education is therefore getting more and more attention.**” (HRK, 2018, p. 3) Besides the traditional forms of studying abroad and short-time stays abroad for internships, **there is ever-increasing focus on internationalisation at home. This is about integrating international and intercultural aspects in content and methodology. Web-based learning events offer a good option for this** (Wannemacher, 2016; Knoth & Herrling, 2017).

The online course *Primary Education* picks up on this development and offers web-based learning in which students have the opportunity to reflect on the key issues of primary education in an international comparison while at the same time working with students from international partner universities. In this way students can hone their intercultural and foreign language skills.

The course is offered every semester on the ILIAS learning platform of the Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nürnberg and is open to German students and students at Erasmus + partner universities. The course is credited with 4 ECTS points and is firmly anchored in the curriculum (Renner, in press). **The course was developed in collaboration with the University of Augsburg** (Prof. Dr Andreas Hartinger). **The development of the online course has been promoted by the Virtuelle Hochschule Bayern** (Virtual University of Bavaria - www.vhb.org).

Content and structure of the online course

The course highlights the most important developments in primary education in an international perspective. It addresses key questions regarding the tasks and functions of primary schools and primary school teacher education and compares them internationally. The learning modules are activated every two weeks for students.

Week 1 + 2: Welcome

Week 3 + 4: **Educational Systems**

Week 5 + 6: **Teaching and Learning** in Primary Education

Week 7 + 8: **Assessment** in Primary Education

Week 9 + 10: **All-day School** in Primary Education

Week 11+12: **Inclusive Education** in Primary Education

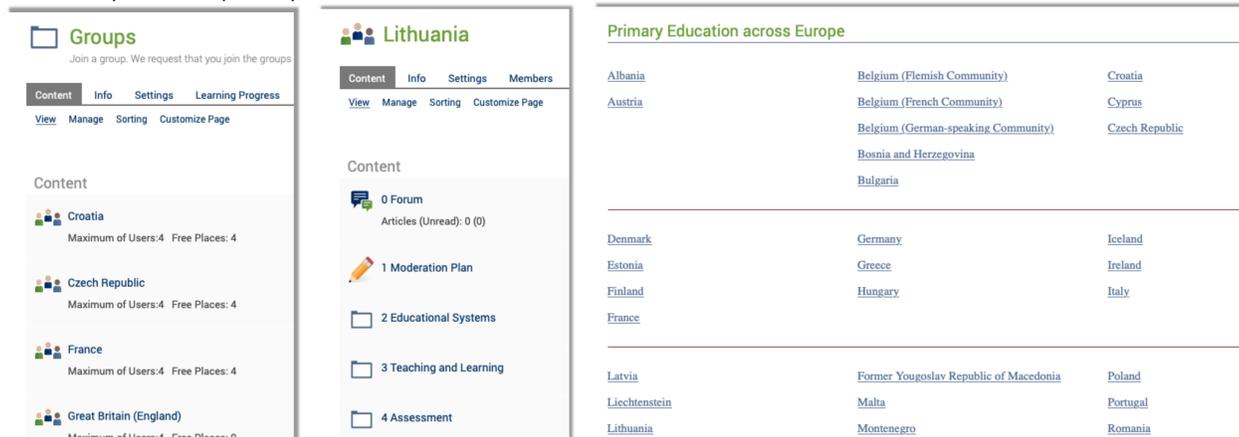
Week 13+14: **Mobility and Internationalisation**



Collaborative online learning

The course contains individual tasks and group assignments that will count toward completion of the seminar. The students complete the individual tasks at their own pace, and the group assignments together with the group.

They work in groups of four during the course. Here the most important course contents are developed, discussed and reflected upon. To improve collaboration, one member of the group must moderate each of the group assignments. The students have to collaborate and create a wiki throughout the course. This is the many part of their workload during the course. **A wiki grows throughout the course** recording the results of the group work. **The wiki is organised by country** and covers each country's educational system, teaching and learning in primary education, assessment in primary education and all-day school in primary education.



Presentation

The course is presented by the lecturing and trained e-tutors, because „students benefit greatly in online seminars from supervision provided by human tutors, who support the technical acquisition of learning contents, instruct the structure of self-learning processes and forms of online-peer and collaborative learning and can provide technical assistance“ (Wannemacher et al., 2016, 45).

Further information

Further information and a **course demo can be requested at:**

Contact: Günter Renner / Institute of Primary Education Research / FAU / Germany / guenter.renner@fau.de



Evaluation

In 2019 **the course was evaluated by two independent experts** of the VHB in terms of content and implementation in terms of didactic use of media (ExEval28_16-I-07-14Mar1_Inhalt and ExEval28_16-I-07-14Mar1_Technik):

Content – applicability	(++/+/--)
Have suitable learning goals been defined and communicated to the participants?	++
Is the content suitable for achieving the learning goals?	++
Is the content current?	++
Didactics – Methodology	
Do participants receive information regarding the organisation and progression of the course in the beginning?	++
Is the course room laid out clearly and consistently?	++
Is the didactic implementation of the course content appropriate?	+
Is the chosen teaching/learning method suitable to achieve the learning goals defined?	+
Are the participants given regular opportunities to verify their learning success?	+
Is the form of proof of academic achievement suitable for the verification of the learning goals?	+
Does a sufficient number of options for communication among participants exist?	++
Technical and didactic media implementation	
Does the course run smoothly in technical terms?	++
Does the course use state-of-the-art technology?	++
Is the course design appealing, modern, and tailored to its target group?	++
Are different types of media used, and is this done sensibly?	++
Are different ways of communication offered and used meaningfully in the course?	++
Have the course and the teaching material been designed accessibly?	++
Can the course be used viably on mobile devices?	+

The course is very nicely designed and modern, with lots of variety and yet it meets the layout specifications for the individual pages. Exemplary!

The course does an exemplary job at combining text, images, videos, and interactive elements with control questions. The possibilities of the various media are used well.

There are different means of communication such as pinboard or wikis that students work on together as well as group work. This provides excellent support to learners.