Sept 2023





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Improving Access to Science and Technology Higher Education in Resource-Poor Institutions through an Open Platform for Technology Enabled Active Learning Environment

610186-EPP-1-2019-LK-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP





THE TEAL2.O PLATFORM

We are happy to announce that the TEAL2.O platform is now operational and is still undergoing user testing at the TEAL2.O institutions.

Access the platform at:

https://teal2o.pdn.ac.lk/teal-lrm/

The TEAL 2.0 platform consists of three modules:

- Content creation/ fork/ update
- Course creation/ fork/ update
- Program creation/ fork/ update

Login and logout sections are available from the same link.

In this newsletter, we focus on ways to use a Course Presentation Template and to set up interactive assessment. We also review the preliminary results from user testing and training.

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.



FUNCTIONALITIES FOR TEACHERS

How to use a Course Presentation Template

The H5P Course Presentation Template contains H5P elements that can be included into an interactive presentation. The template elements can be replaced with the user's own content. In addition, H5P content files can be imported directly on the TEAL platform and can be modified further as needed. Frequently used H5P interactive resources include text boxes, external links, videos and interactive assessment activities.

Setting up interactive assessment

Interactive assessment can be set up as a collection of assessment activities grouped in a Course Presentation. This approach allows displaying an Overview and a Summary that synthesizes the assessment results. For such purposes, users can utilize the Course Presentation functionality. They are expected to create the starting slides (a cover and an overview slide), and then a new slide where the first assessment activity will be placed. Each new activity will be placed on a new slide. If needed, videos or pictures can be placed on separate slides. The following options for assessment activities are supported:

- Fill in the Blanks
- Single Choice Set
- Multiple Choice
- True/False Question
- Drag and Drop



PRELIMINARY RESULTS FROM USER TESTING AND TRAINING

Testing and Training activities

The platform has been tested in live classroom environment in several universities. In addition, teacher, staff and student training is currently in progress. The testing and training activities have been carried out mostly with students and teachers in Technology and Engineering fields.

Student testing and training has focused on accessing and using the platform and the content, performing assessment activities (including Java & Python programming assessment through coderunner), and accessing grades and results.

Teacher training and testing activities on the other hand focused on using the platform to design course content, to share it with colleagues and to use it in live classroom environment. Specific sessions were held on creating interactive content using H5P, as well as on sharing and collaborating on content. To enable the smooth operation of the platform, teachers were also acquainted with versioning control and the workflow of TEAL2.0 platform coordination between Global and Local severs.

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Feedback

Participants in the testing and training activities gave an overall positive assessment of the platform. The basic functionalities were tested and no bugs were found. The platform was not judged to have a too steep learning curve and trainees were able to start using it effectively relatively quickly.

Further, around 80% of the responding teachers and over 80% of the responding students suggested that:

- The TEAL2.O platform can contribute to improving the quality and accessibility of open and online education in the areas of Science, Engineering and Technology
- The TEAL2.O platform can address the current and future problems related to the online delivery of university education in general
- The TEAL2.O platform can help strengthen the cooperation between universities as regards the design and delivery of online education in the areas of Science, Engineering and Technology

More than 40% of the responding teachers and students, however, expect more training in order to use the platform more effectively.

Additional user suggestions for improvement centered on improving the user experience, simplifying the interface, and adding more content.





TEAL2.O PARTNERS AND CREATORS

Contact us

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The TEAL2.O platform is being created by:

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Sri Lanka Technological Campus SLTC
Indian Institute of Information Technology, Allahabad, India
Vellore Institute of Technology, India
RK University, India
University of Bologna, Italy
University of Stavanger, Norway
University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka
Naresuan University, Thailand
European Center for Quality, Bulgaria
Transilvania University of Brasov, Romania

We are supported by:

Open University of Sri Lanka
Lanka Education and Research Network (LEARN), Sri Lanka
University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka
Eastern University, Sri Lanka
Jaffna University, Sri Lanka
University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka

