

REPORT



3.4 Testing and validating the e-ToolKit as an innovative approach on teaching and learning in the context of the International Week.

The working group: MENDELU

Activity dates:

Start Date 2021-05-02

End Date 2023-05-01

Objectives

The main objectives of the e-Toolkit were:

- to deliver a web-based e-learning Toolkit including an Online Educational Resources (OER's)
- to strengthen scientific cooperation mobilities (SCM's)
- To support current EU frameworks applied in the Erasmus Programme

These OER's have the possibility to be delivered in a variety of ways, due to the way the e-Toolkit can be constructed.

Testing and validation of developer e-Toolkit

As part of the validation process, a before-and-after questionnaire has been developed that the user can complete for his/her purposes to assess progress or to identify skills or competencies that need attention or further development. The question consists of a Likert-type scale used to evaluate a whole range of skills and competencies associated with the four categories of ICSM's. The questionnaire part of the e-Toolkit structure and assessment results are accessible from the e-Toolkit.

Below is the validation question, with the categories included in the table below.

In your own opinion, how competent are you in general in doing the following? Use a sliding scale (Likert-scale) (1=Totally incompetent / no lasting results. 5 = Sufficiently competent in the most important aspects of mobility / creating satisfactory results. 10= Completely competent in all aspects of mobility / creating lasting results)

Generally manage your academic life
Developing suitable teaching and learning or learning strategies practices to adapt at other academic institutions.
Developing networks to complete current academic tasks successfully.
Overcoming academic challenges and creating opportunities.
Building strong and successful networks for further collaboration after the mobility.
Building strong and successful networks for the successful development of research projects
Meeting top scientist/opinion leaders to increase the effectiveness and expertise of your own network.
Creating collaborative relationships and opportunities.
Overcoming the language barrier in new places.
Establishing and effectively functioning in group relationships.
Establishing and effectively functioning in individual relationships.
Building publication networks and research ethics agreement during and after mobility visits
Optimizing academic interaction during a mobility
Creating a personally rewarding mobility experience
Effective communication skills for a successful mobility
Effective conflict management for a successful mobility
Effective social interaction for a successful mobility
Personal development strategies to enhance the mobility outcomes
Personal innovation and creativity skills
Personal critical thinking skills.
Personal ability to best post arrival orientation.

Meeting your own expectations of mobility.
Answering to your aspirations (career improvement, etc.) for a mobility.
Using mobility support structures for successful mobilities
Essential mobility guidance and leadership (to meet objectives of mobility)
How to deal with social life
Overcoming the language barrier in destination institutions.
Establishing groups and effectively engaging in group and individual relationships and interactions in destination countries.
Social orientation, engagement and assimilation into society
Local regional orientation and planning social site visits and tourist attractions in destination countries
Understanding social conventions, ethics, codes of good practices and informal institutions in destination countries for optimum mobility experience
Identifying informal institutions and using them for a better mobility experience
Finding and buying normal life support and study equipment and food
Planning and managing travel and accommodation needs in destination countries
Financial management and budgeting to meet mobility requirements
Creating a generally rewarding personal mobility experience
Managing all my available resources to complete my tasks.
Effective communication skills (language skills, conflict management, social interaction, etc.)
Managing and meeting expectations of mobility (outcomes, etc.)
Answering to your aspirations (career improvement, etc.)
Managing and securing sufficient support levels (for successful completion of mobility)
Essential general guidance and leadership (to meet objectives of mobility)
How to deal with practical life
Establishing and effectively functioning in group and individual relationships and interactions in destination countries.
Social engagement and assimilation into society
Local regional orientation and planning site visits and tourist attractions in destination countries
Understanding social conventions and informal institutions in destination countries for optimum mobility experience
Accepting or agreeing on research ethics and integrity issues during mobilities
Negotiating and overcoming the research legal issues and protection challenges when publishing after a mobility
Identifying informal institutions and using them for a better mobility experience
Finding and buying normal life support and study equipment and food
Planning and managing travel and accommodation needs in destination countries
Financial management and budgeting to meet mobility requirements with the available mobility funding

Local regional orientation and planning site visits and tourist attractions in destination countries
Understanding social conventions and informal institutions in destination countries for optimum mobility experience
Generally creating a rewarding mobility experience for myself
Improving my social engagement and assimilation into society
Assessing my available resources to complete my tasks.
Effective communication skills (language skills, conflict management, social interaction, etc.)
How to deal with emergency situations
Assessing my available resources to complete my tasks.
Finding and buying normal life support and study equipment and food
Planning and managing travel and accommodation needs in destination countries
Local regional orientation and planning site visits and tourist attractions in destination countries
Assessing my available resources to complete my tasks.
Sufficient support levels (for successful completion of mobility)
Essential guidance and leadership (to meet objectives of mobility)

Conclusion

In the light of the differences in skills and competences demanded by the different types of mobility programmes, care was taken to try and avoid excluding anybody from using the e-Toolkit. The e-Toolkit is suitable for use by THREE types of users

- Students and staff wanting to use it purely for the preparations of mobilities as reflected in the structure of the e-Toolkit. To make this even more effective, the stage of use is also used in the structuring. It is not compulsory to use this structuring, but for the novel user it provides a handy point of departure and access route to start using the e-Toolkit.
- The second group is the user who wishes to search and navigate a particular topic relating to personal interest or need.
- The third group is the user who wishes to combine searches and follow routes dealing with more than one theme. Since the design is not simply like a set of library files, and offer direct access onto the World Wide Web, it is possible to randomly navigate the e-Toolkit.

These three possibilities are designed to offer the user an easy negotiable e-Toolkit while offering the possibilities to negotiate various routes and search needs, of course there are limitations since the descriptions in the Project Proposal for the functionalities of the e-Toolkit are quite specific and sets certain important limitations in terms of its functionalities and objectives.

Efforts were made to incorporate features that accommodate different cultural pedagogy and learning styles to prevent learners from feeling lost or feeling dissatisfied with the online learning experience.

- The toolkit incorporates a variety of modules in one e-Toolkit with the use of online digital platforms so that the educational material will be available in open access to groups.
- Identified important synergies between the IO3 and IO4 toolkits to create an overall more effective and educational experience for the user.
- The use of this e-Toolkit “should not limited to the tool itself, but rather expand on how the tool can act as a vehicle for transforming student thinking at different levels.” Each level is accompanied by a description of its relevance and examples of digital tools that connect with this taxonomy framework.

Expanding the use of the toolkit to be of use in other projects as well. The logical next steps are to use it as a tool to develop a database for the improvement of mobility skills of students and staff (example of Water Week).

A Short Training Activity with the aim of showing to all partners how use the e-Toolkit was done during the Multiplier event in Dubrovnik (29. – 31. 3. 2023) and in the Final meeting held in Brno (20. – 21. 4. 2023).