Using an Activity Dashboard to Support Awareness and Reflection in a European Virtual Seminar

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The European Virtual Seminar (EVS)

Welcome to the European Virtual Seminar on Sustainable Development (EVS).

The aim of the EVS is to foster an international, multidisciplinary dialogue on sustainable development among students from all over Europe by using modern ICT and the internet.

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The European Virtual Seminar (EVS)

- **aim:**
  - foster international & multidisciplinary dialogue on sustainable development amongst students from all over Europe by using modern ICT and the internet

- **key components:**
  - students (and staff) of different nationalities and backgrounds (cultural and disciplinary)
  - collaboration between geographically distributed students
  - authentic, current scientific or societal problems
  - collaboration, communication and interaction between students (and staff).

- **joint course of eleven European universities**
EVS: Platform

- EVS is run on Elgg open source software
- has a range of facilities and tools to help both students and staff to get to know each other and to stimulate the sense of belonging to a community
SOC - Social Capital in Regional Sustainable Development

Course year: 2014-2015

Group description:
The goal of this case study is to analyse cases in regional sustainable development, either failures or success stories, from the social perspective, and identify factors that are critical for achieving truly balanced sustainable development.

Tutor: Laura
Expert: Jana & Andrew

Owner: Laura
Group members: 9

Latest discussion

- Group Reflection Report
  - Posts: 5

- Powerpoint presentation
  - Posts: 2

- Draft 2 - toward a final review of the research report
  - Posts: 98

- Review of latest draft
  - Posts: 1

Group files

- group reflection report table.docx
  - yesterday

Group pages

- Skype monday 22/11
  - Last updated 113 days ago by Inês
EVS: new dashboard for 2015/2016 edition

- analyse log data and visualise them via an Activity and Performance Dashboard
- offer students feedback on individual performance and group processes within the groups
- get insight into effects that providing visual feedback may have on individual performance and group atmosphere
- expected outcomes:
  - Awareness of and reflection on own actions
  - Awareness of and reflection on average group actions
  - Better engagement with LMS to improve learning experience and group’s dynamic
- **Hurdle:** pass the ethics board
- **Solution:** reciprocal relations
# The Dashboard – the five indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>indicator</th>
<th>Calculation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Initiative</td>
<td>Number of posts (discussion, blog, files, pages)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Responsiveness</td>
<td>Number of comments to posts (discussion, blog, files, pages)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Connectedness</td>
<td>Number of contacts created</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Presence</td>
<td>Online Presence measured through page views</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Productivity</td>
<td>Sum of initiative + responsiveness divided by presence</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Cumulative activity vs Periodic activity

Periodic activity

- Initiative
- Responsiveness
- Productivity
- Connectedness
- Presence

Group activity: blue line
Me: orange line

Timeline: Dec 2014 to Mar 2015
Outlook

- go live with dashboard in 2015/2016 edition of the EVS
- evaluate usefulness and usability with students
- compare different groups
- compare data from 2015/2016 with previous runs (that had no dashboard)
Thank You!

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