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1st webinar on e-learning: From emergency provision to better learning opportunities?

By The European Students Union

Liv & Nina
April 6, 2020

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Welcome to our first
webinar in a series of
webinars on e-learning!

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1. Very short introduction to ESU

- Umbrella organization of the National Unions of Students
- 45 organizations from 40 different countries
- Advocating on European level for student rights
- Quality Assurance student experts pool guided by the Steering Committee, who co-organizes this webinar series.

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Today's webinar

1. Introductory questions for all of you
2. Presentation of our experts
3. Panel discussion
4. Closing remarks

esu
european students' union

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Some points of attention

1. Ask your questions on Menti during the presentation
2. The webinar will be recorded
3. Use the chat if you have technical questions/remarks
4. Your microphones are all muted

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What is your background?

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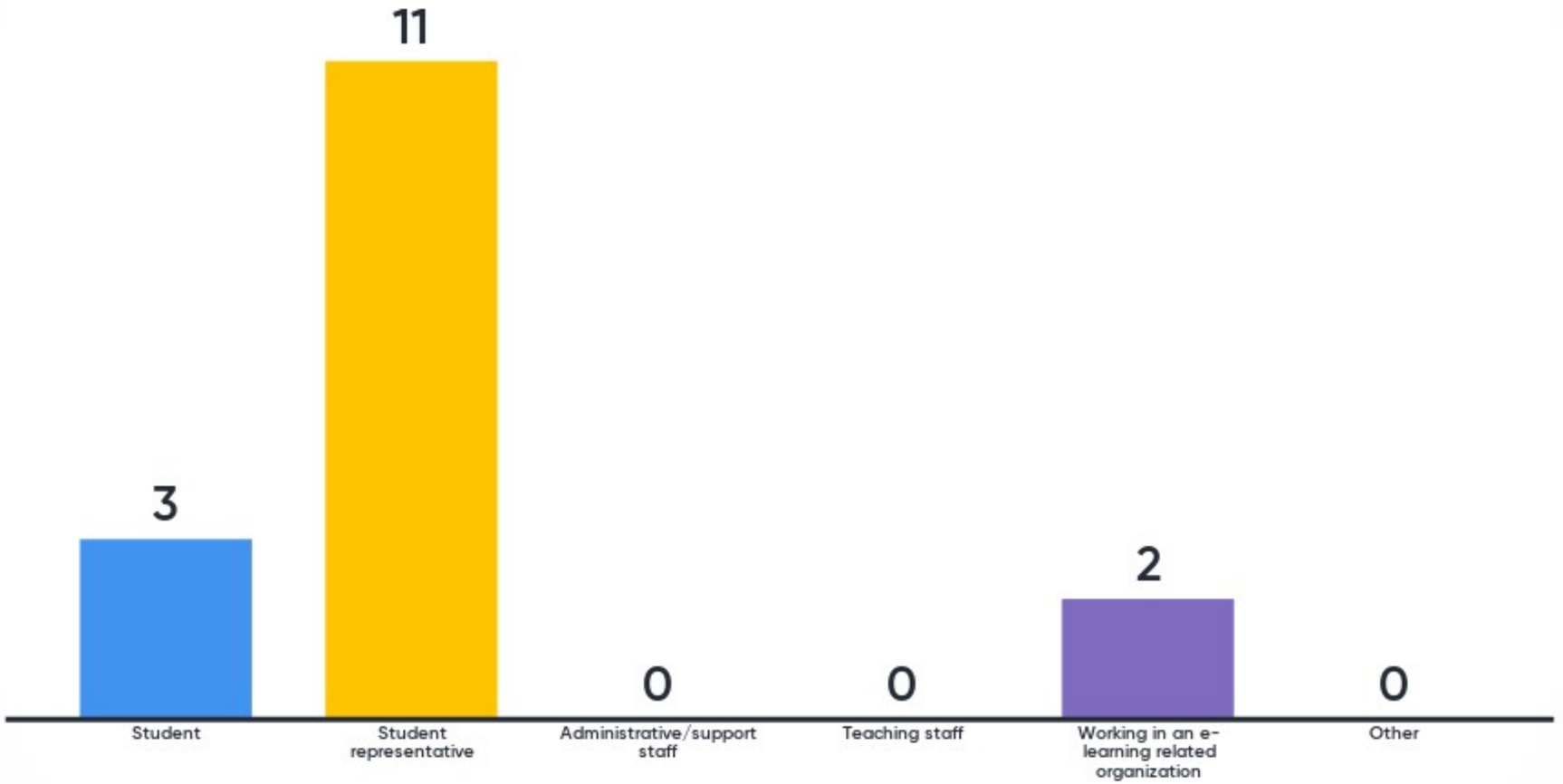

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Are you currently doing online learning?

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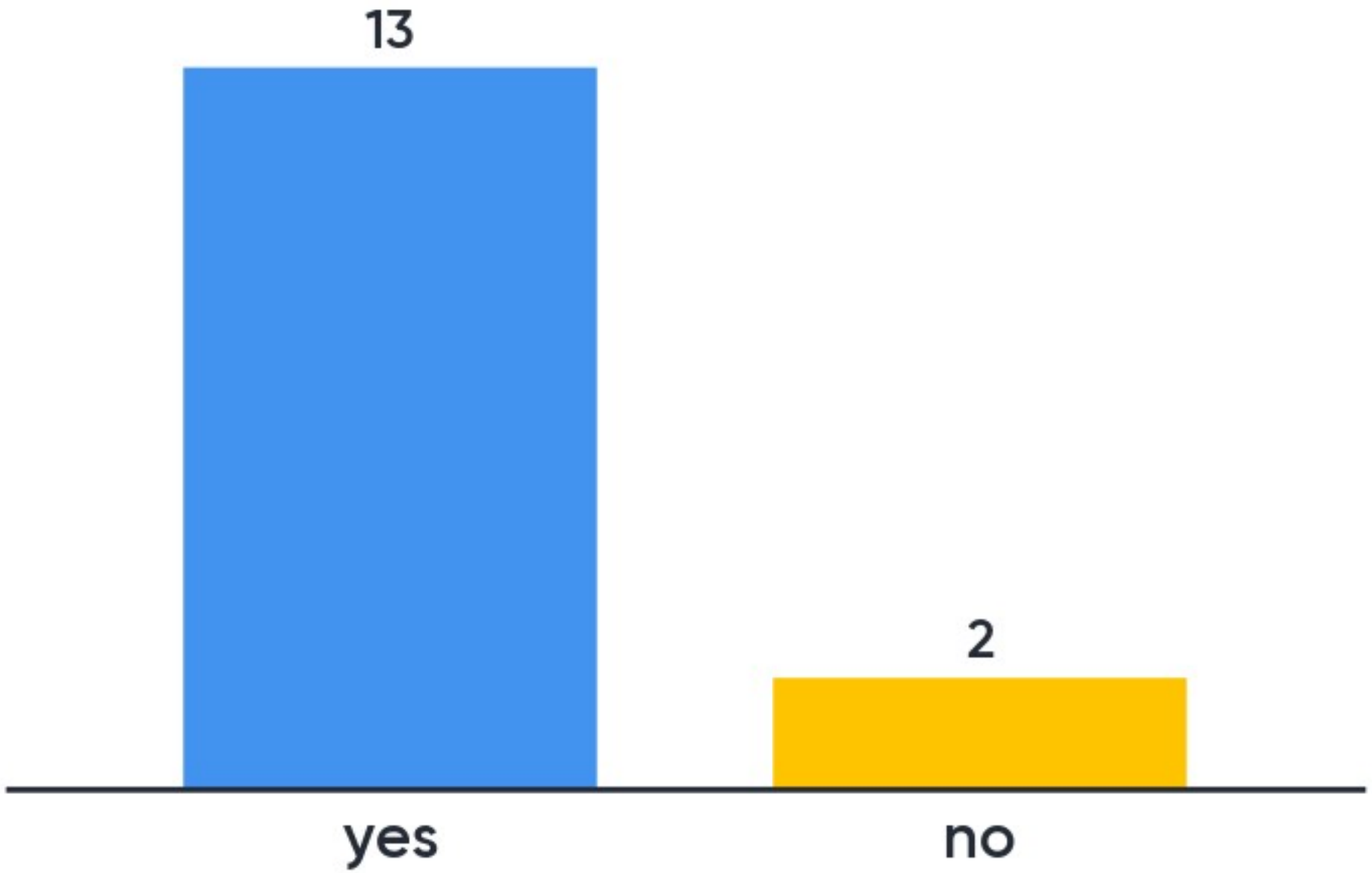

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Have you taken online courses before Corona quarantine?

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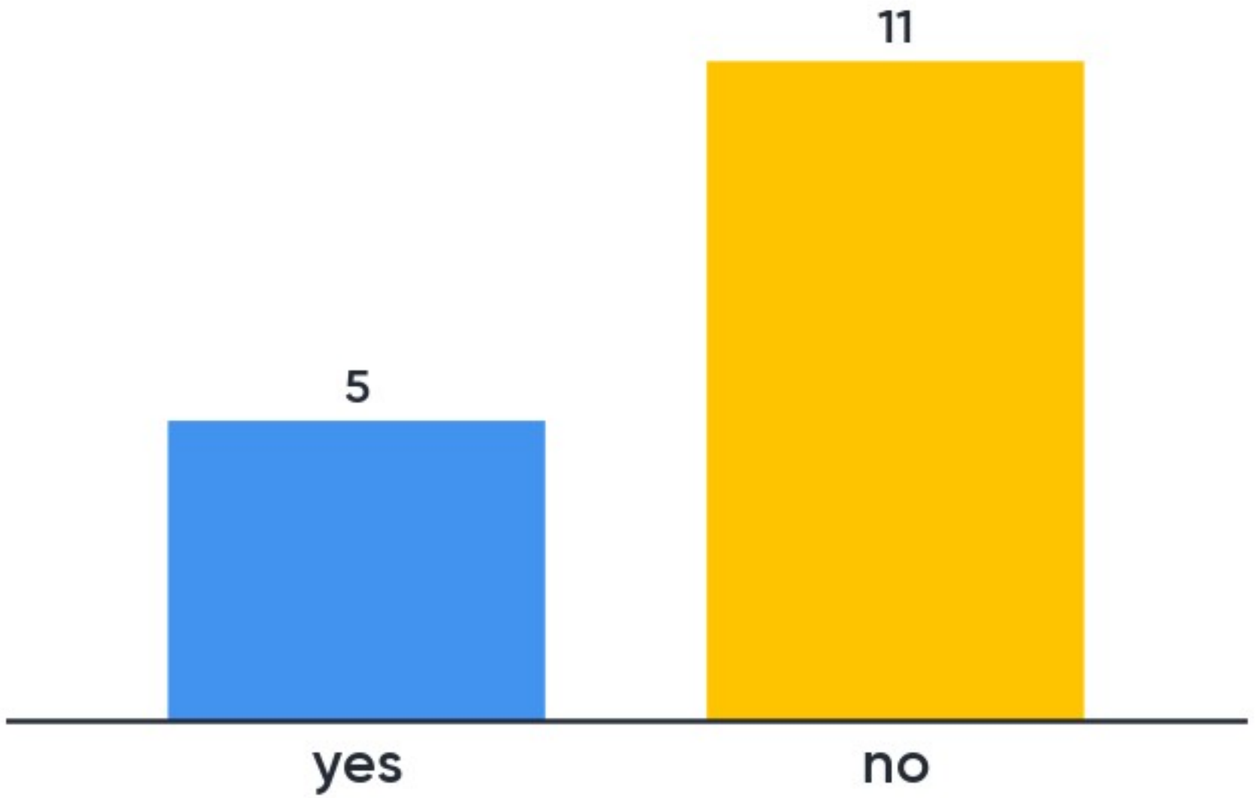

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Are you taking online courses during Corona quarantine?

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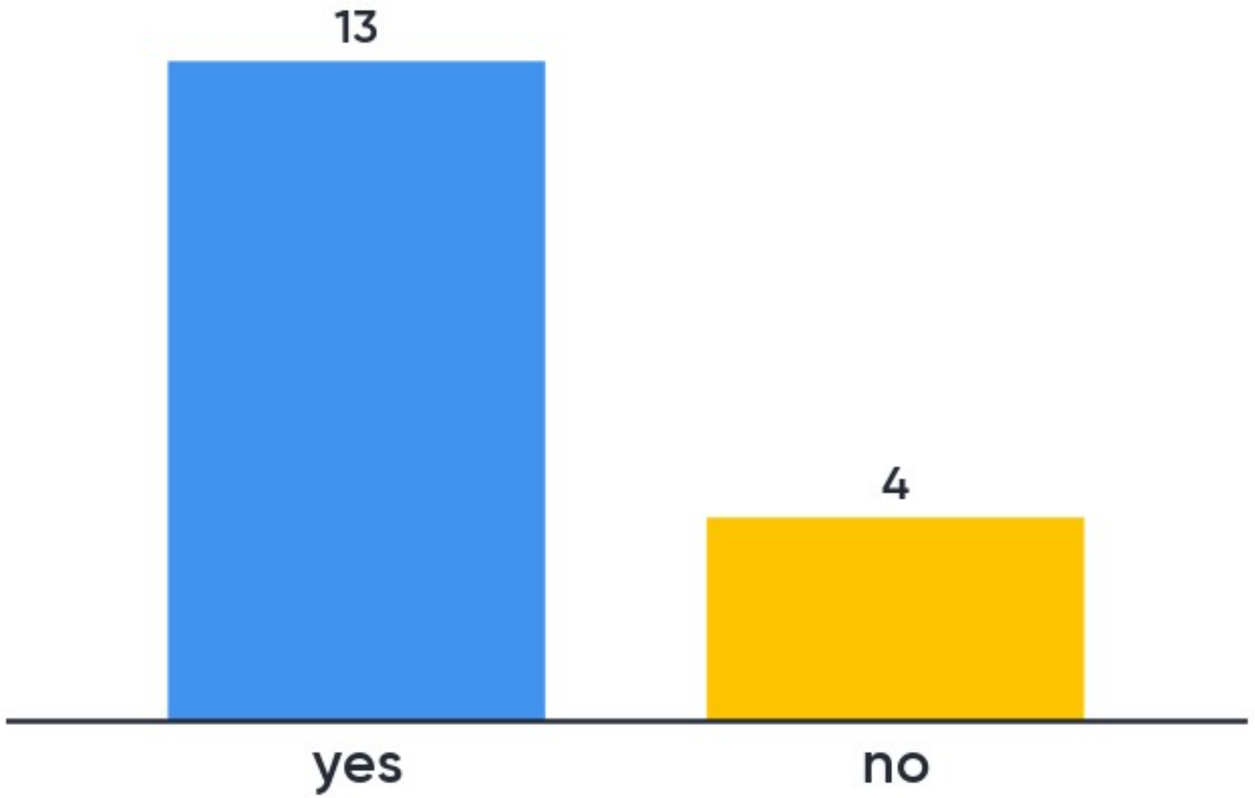

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How many of the courses have you completed online?

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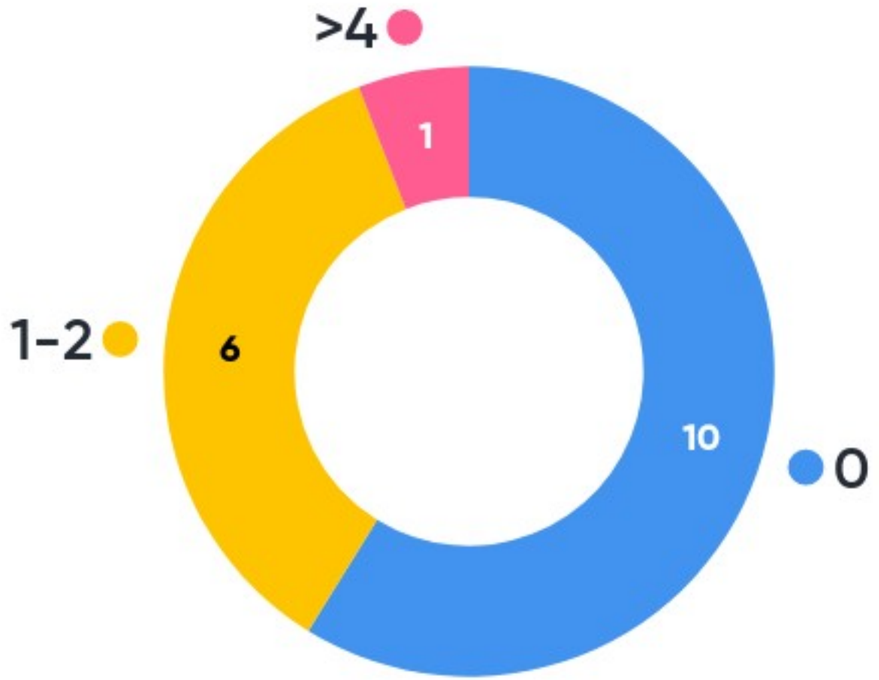

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How satisfied are you with what you get out of e-learning?

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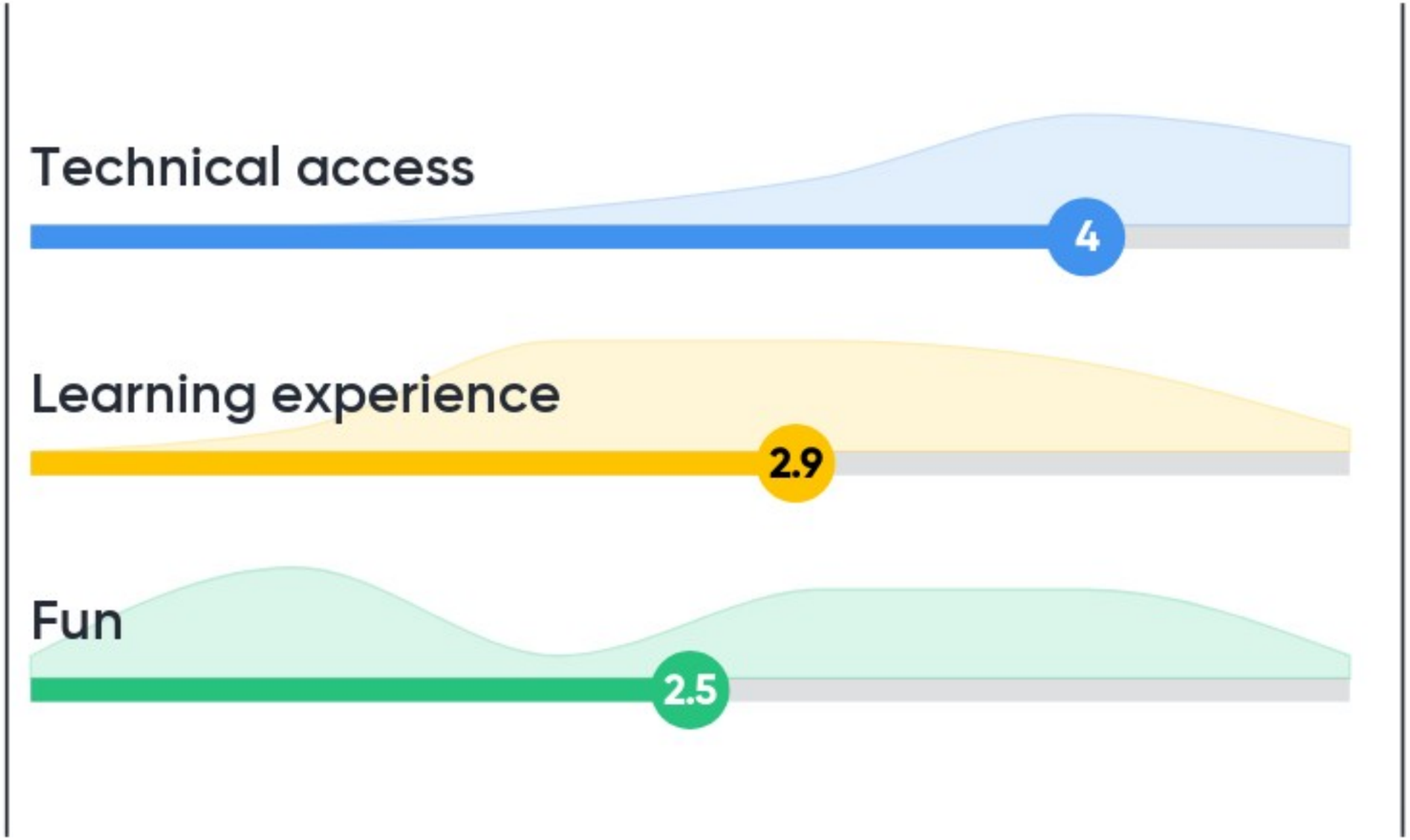

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Don't forget to ask your questions!

First expert presentation: Markus Wachowski & Dominic Orr

Kiron

Kiron enables access to higher education and successful learning for refugees through digital solutions

1st webinar on E-learning: From emergency provision to better learning opportunities?

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A short introduction to E-Learning

Dr. Markus Wachowski, markus.wachowski@kiron.ngo
Prof. Dr. Dominic Orr, dominic.orr@kiron.ngo

What is e-learning - and what not?

Any learning environment (on- and offline) consists of at least the following elements:

- Design of learning content and support
- Access to content and support
- Assessment and certification
- Interactivity

E-learning is like distance learning, as it aims to overcome physical barriers to accessing content

E-learning is also called digital, web-based or online content, as it uses technologies to enhance the learning environment

What is e-learning - and what not?

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E-learning should not only be focused on technology (i.e. "e")

"E-learning is an innovative web-based system based on digital technologies and other forms of educational materials whose primary goal is to provide students with a personalized, learner-centered, open, enjoyable and interactive learning environment supporting and enhancing the learning processes."

Rodrigues, H., Almeida, F., Figueiredo, V., & Lopes, S. L. (2019). Tracking e-learning through published papers: A systematic review. *Computers & Education*, *136*, 87–98. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.compedu.2019.03.007

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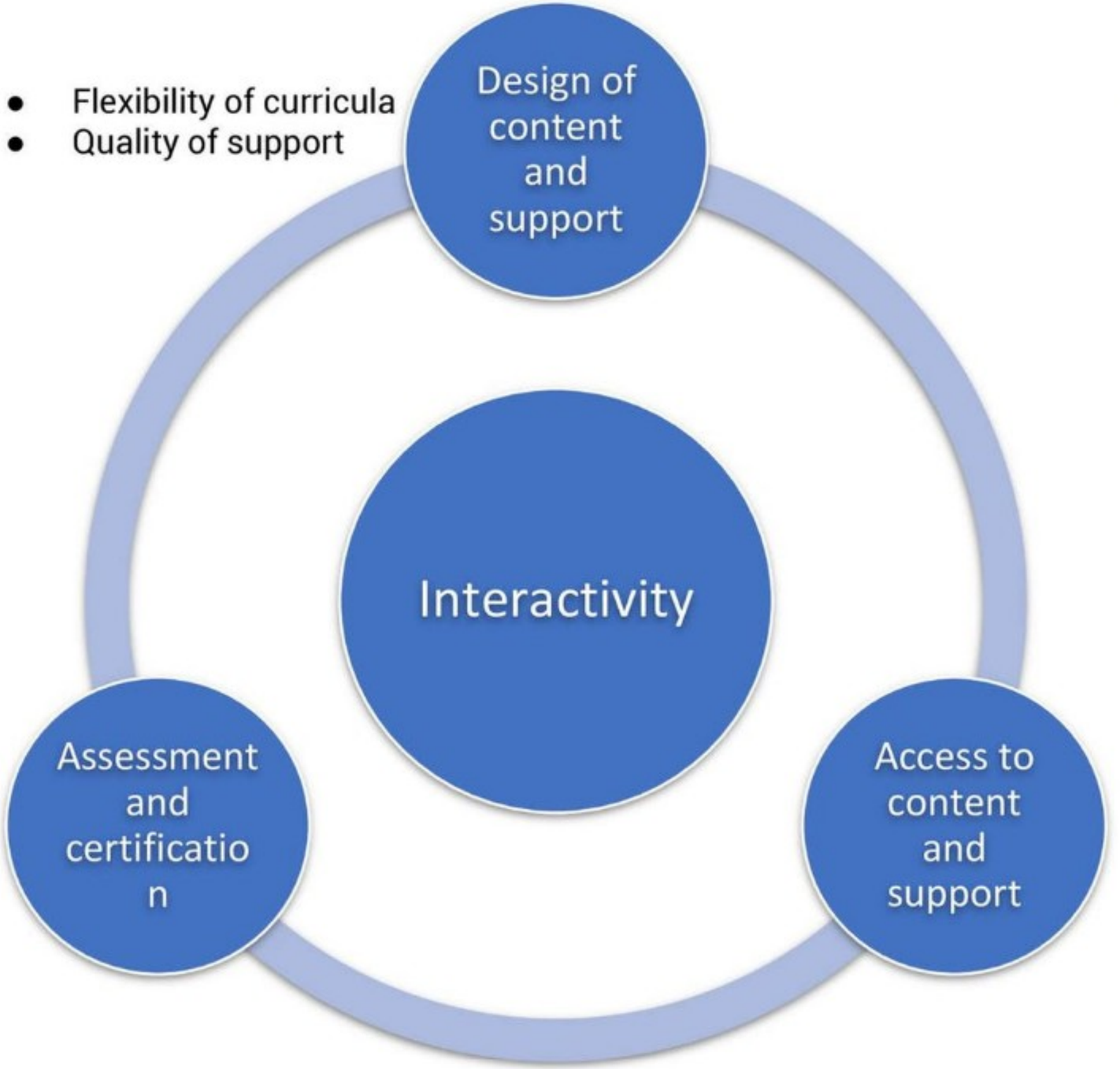
- Flexibility of curricula
- Quality of support



- Flexibility of assessments
- Recognition of learning

- Technical requirements
- Engaging and enjoyable environment

What is e-learning - and what not?

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PDF-Learning:

- ★ Linear provision of content and support
- ★ High accessibility with little engagement
- ★ No or very limited options of assessment

PDF

Online course:

- ★ Semi-flexible learning offers and support
- ★ Technically demanding but engaging environment
- ★ Limited assessments and recognition

Inverted classroom:

- ★ Semi-flexible learning offers and flexible support
- ★ Engaging and flexible via combination of online and offline offers
- ★ Flexible assessments with recognition

Interactivity in e-learning

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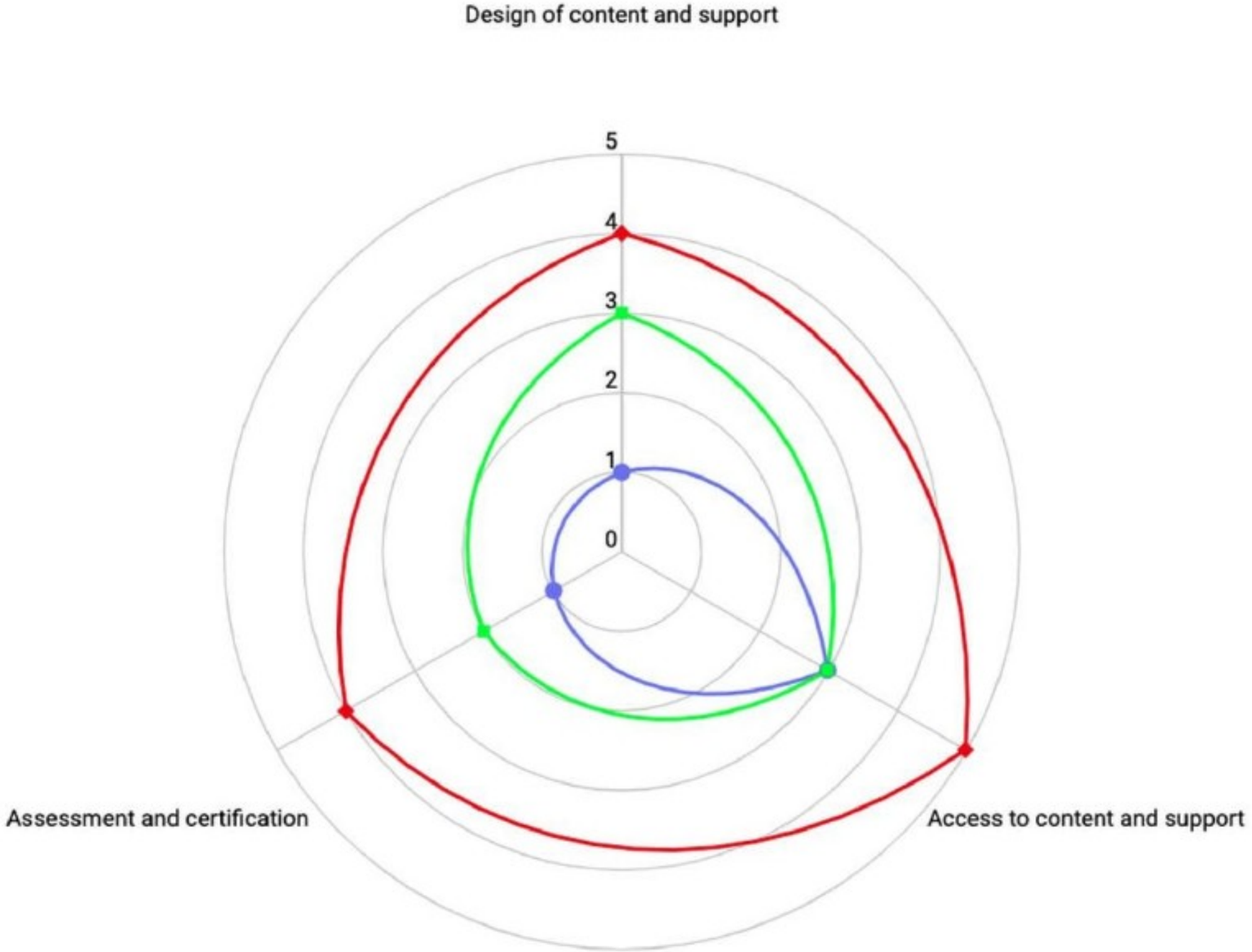
- pdf-learning
- online-course
- Inverted classroom



What does “student-centered” e-learning look like?

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- Starts out from the motivation and interests of the student
- Focusses on the issues of interactivity and community-building
- Breaks up strict curricula and allows for individual learning pathways
- Provides an engaging environment and design

Common issues around e-learning

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Misconceptions about the benefits
Cheap
Personal learning pathway
Accessible to all
Digital support

Misconceptions about the risks
Replaces teachers
Studying alone
Motivational problems
Hours of instructional videos
Not recognized

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Don't forget to ask your questions!

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Second expert presentation: Laura Beston

Laura is the current President of Trinity College Dublin's Student Union. During her time as an officer in the college's union Laura has engaged with various decision making bodies in the college in making online learning more accessible for those with disabilities as well as contributing to the start up of online learning in the college in response to COVID-19.

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My involvement with e-learning

- I have sat on various governing and academic boards over the course of my time as an Officer in Trinity College Dublin Students Union. In the face of the recent pandemic I have been involved in various discussions that have focused on e-learning, the delivery of it and how to support students in accessing and completing their education in the face of a global crisis.
- There have had to be many quick decisions but they have posed greater questions for the future of e-learning and the integration of online learning into regular academic content.

How is e-learning in reality?
How has e-learning taken shape at Trinity College Dublin?

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We have had Online Teaching & Learning IT services available to College for many years – so we were starting from a point where we had the services in place, fully licenced, supported and with lots of online learning materials available. We were essentially "ramping up" the usage of the portfolio of existing services over a very short period of time:

- *Blackboard – the Virtual Learning Environment*
- *Blackboard Collaborate Ultra – for Online Tutorials*
- *Panopto – for Lecture Capture*

***Blackboard** – 102,637 logins since we moved to online teaching an increase of 16% over previous weeks in March*

***Blackboard** – 21,130 Assessments since we moved to online teaching an increase of 27% over the previous weeks in March*

***Blackboard Collaborate** - for Tutorials / small group interactive teaching*

- *1620 Virtual Tutorials delivered using Blackboard **Collaborate Ultra***
- *Over 4000 hours of Virtual Tutorials*

***Panopto** - for Lecture Capture / Live Lecture streaming*

- *Over 2000 lectures captured with **Panopto** that have been viewed nearly 50,000 times*

Trinity College Dublin IT Services

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What is a student-centred approach to e-learning and how can this be implemented?

A student centered approach to e-learning has to be one that considers the students previous experience of learning and anticipates what obstacles may be faced in accessing the new online resources.

Lecturers have made themselves more readily available online for students and this is evident from the surveys I have conducted. While the student might not be able to interact as naturally in larger groups online or pose questions they are receiving contact from teaching staff.

"IT Services has been working closely in alignment with the Senior Lecturer in regard to what options are available for online teaching and learning and how best to deliver the necessary support to the Academic staff. I think this high-level collaboration has been really helpful to ensure that a clear message has gone out across our community as to how online teaching could be delivered." - Trinity College Dublin IT Services

How can we best support staff in ensuring that e-learning can be carried out to the best of our ability?

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It is evident that staff are having to adapt their own lives around this new structure and that they too are posing challenges in their own lives so it is important that institutions make necessary measures to also support staff in this time. Perhaps the most crucial element of delivering an effective online experience is support in accessing the technology and that has been evident in Trinity College from the onset.

"We have been running additional workshops, initially on-site before the College closed, and then online to support the Academic staff with the move to online teaching. The Panopto workshops were running multiple times daily in the week leading up to 16 March, when online learning became the sole mode of teaching. There are also sessions running online each week on Blackboard Collaborate Ultra and Panopto to continue to provide extra support. We have also created and published a new section on the IT Services Website for "Covid-19 Working and Learning Remotely" that provides a one-stop shop for finding the most useful resources for learning how to use Blackboard Collaborate Ultra and Panopto, including recordings of the online training sessions we have been running. Our IT Service Desk and our Teaching & Learning IT team have been, and continue, to work really hard to respond to and answer any incoming requests for assistance from the Trinity community." - Trinity College Dublin IT Services

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Wider issues that may impact a students ability to engage with e-learning

"We in IT might have initially been concerned that the online learning IT services (Blackboard\Panopto) which are Cloud-based services hosted in European Data Centres, might themselves come under a real "overload". In this event, Covid-19 Pandemic, much of Europe's Higher Education was all moving to reliance for teaching and learning to these online teaching services at the same time. However these concerns have been unfounded as the online teaching services have continued to run as normal, availability and standard performance of the services has been maintained – no mean feat by the vendors." - Trinity College Dublin IT Services

Internet connection has been a huge issue in Ireland and for our international students. The majority of institutions have solved this problem locally supporting students financially in accessing better phone plans with more data to access online learning. This is something that should also be considered on a national level for educational purposes.

Panel discussion

Closing remarks

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Upcoming webinars

1. Assessment of online learning
2. Quality assurance of online learning
3. Recognition of online learning

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Hope to see you at the next webinar!
THANK YOU!

Ask me anything

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8 questions

8 upvotes

Leaderboard

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There are no Quiz questions in this presentation

Add Quiz questions to let your participants compete, and the results will be displayed here!

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