



Vaasan yliopisto
UNIVERSITY OF VAASA



10th EUA-CDE Annual Meeting
Digitalisation: A game changer for doctoral education?

Parallel session I 15.6.
Doctoral Graduate Careers and Skills Development

**Digital nationwide *Working life skills* study package
for doctoral students**

D.Sc., vice-director Virpi Juppo
Research Services and Graduate School, University of Vaasa, Finland

Vipuvoimaa
EU:lta
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TOHTOS-project

- Project aims to
 - improve the employment of doctoral students,
 - develop the curricula of doctoral programmes,
 - and promote the fluent transition of (recently graduated) doctors into the working life.
- TOHTOS is a joint project of five Finnish universities
 - University of Eastern Finland
 - University of Oulu
 - University of Tampere (coordinator)
 - University of Turku
 - University of Vaasa
- The project is carried out during 1.3.2016–30.6.2018
- Budget consist of ESF and state funding 390 000€ (80%), universities 97 500€ (20%), total 487 500€ (100%)



Practical actions

1. To create a digital study package to support working life relevance of doctoral training.
2. To develop a digital channel to support the visibility and recognition of doctoral students know-how.
3. To build cooperation between working life actors, doctoral programs, supervisors, alumni and working life counsellor networks.
4. To create an operation model on working life relevance in doctoral training.
5. To share good practices.



Working life skills

By creating an open and digital nationwide study package for doctoral students the aim is

- to promote the transferable skills and to expand and diversify the potential of the doctoral students to find employment also in other fields than the traditional academic ones.
- to help build the capacity of doctoral students and develop the working life relevance of doctoral training.
- to improve PhD's employment prospects already during the doctoral studies.



Courses of the study package

- Writing Research Grant Proposals
- Project Management
- Basics of Business
- Interactive Leadership Skills
- Career Planning



Free, Open and Digital

- All the Graduate Schools/Doctoral programs in Finland can utilize these courses as a part of their doctoral studies
- Either as a distance learning or with contact learning
- Courses can be modified, utilization of the study package is flexible, depending on the needs of the Graduate Schools/Doctoral programs
- Also career services and supervisors can use the courses as a part of the career guidance for doctoral students
- Course language is English

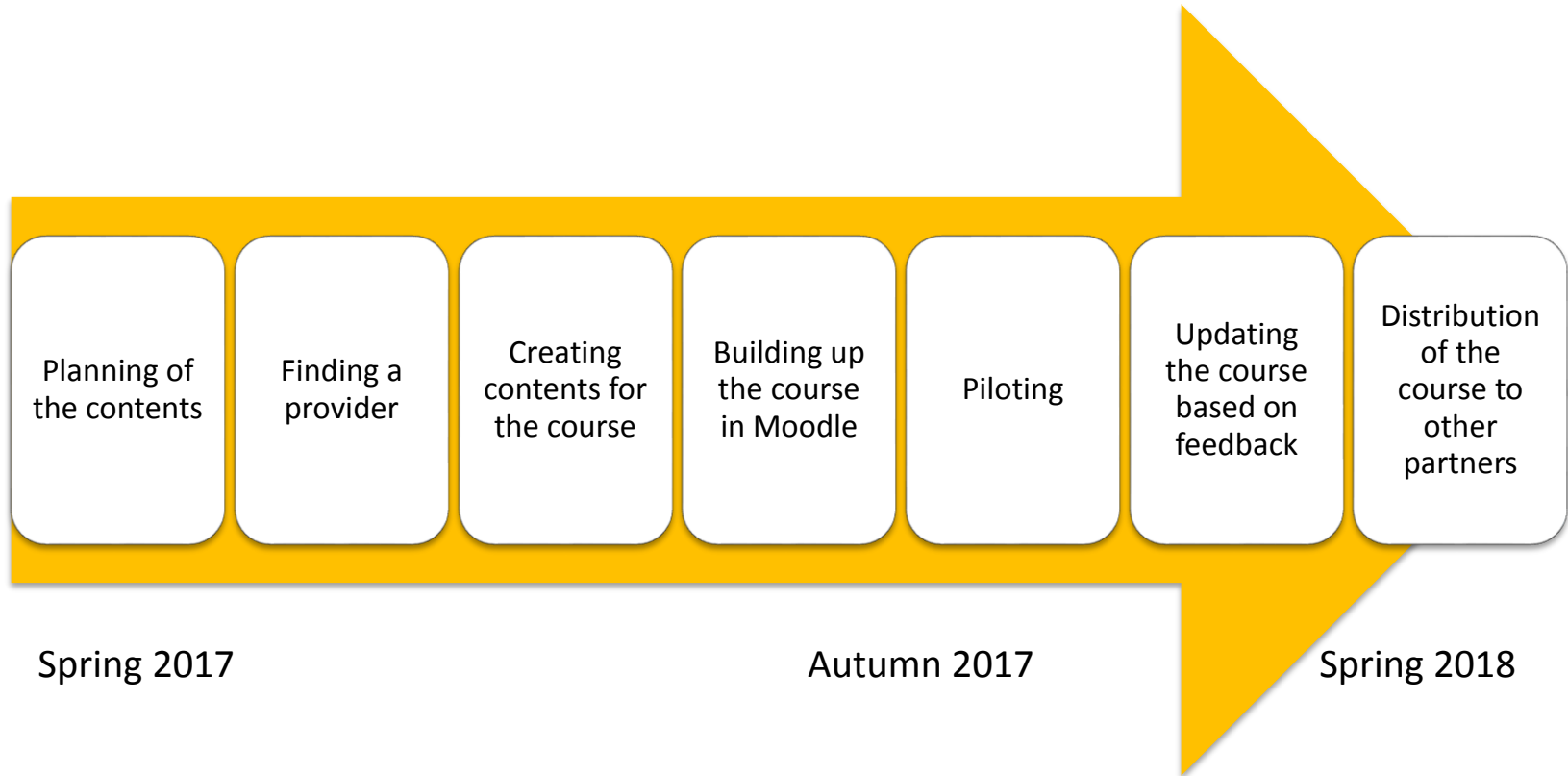


Moodle platform as a digital solution

- Free and open-source software learning management system
- It is in use in most of the Finnish universities
- Accessible with student account
- Familiar to the doctoral students and to the teachers
- It offers variety of tools
- <https://moodle.org>



Timeline

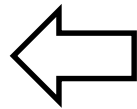


TOHTOS project

Working life skills package

1. Course/UVA
2. Course/TAY
3. Course/UEF
4. Etc.
- 5.

selection

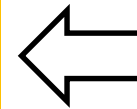


University

Working life skills package

1. Course/Teacher
3. Course/Teacher
4. Etc.

credits



Doctoral student

- Working life skills
- Transferable skills
- Build the capacity
- Employment prospects



Structure of the individual course

- Instructions for each section
- General introduction to theme and guidance how to pass the course
- Section begins with video/ppt about the subject
- Followed by links and additional materials
- Some of the sections may contain different types of assignments



Example on course description

Business skills for the doctoral students, 1 ECTS

To whom: The course is targeted to doctoral students who need to enhance their business skills and knowledge on academic entrepreneurship.

Learning outcomes: After the course the doctoral students know basics of business and business skills, have better understanding the possibilities of self-employment, be able to identify their own possibilities for entrepreneurship, know the most common business models, know the process of productization and understand the meaning of the network.

Content: The course has five parts: Basics of business, creativity and entrepreneurship, business models, productization and networking.

Study materials and literature: As instructed by the teacher

Modes of study: Participation in Moodle, written exercises

Language: English

Grading: Pass/fail



What we have learned so far

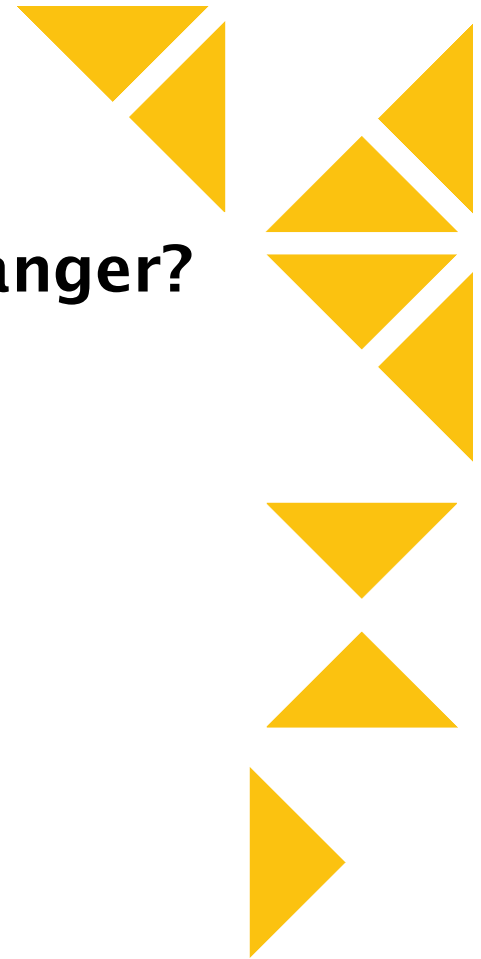
- National digital courses were a good reference and a starting point
 - Research ethics / University of Helsinki, Dr. Mustajoki
 - Open Science / Finnish Advisory Board on Research Integrity
- Joint platform for all the national courses
- Selecting the themes, standpoint was bottom-up
- Agreements between the course provider and the university
- Technical issues of the Moodle platform
- Piloting the courses and who actually teaches the courses
- Aims of the funder (ESF)



Nationwide open digital courses

- are they a game changer?

- Same issues and themes in each university
- Cost-efficient way to produce the courses
- Adjustable and flexible
- Distance learning possibility
- Needs resources, updating issues
- Course life-cycle



Thank you!

Please see also TOHTOS webpages for more information:
www.uta.fi/english/doctoralschool/tohtos/index.html

Contact information:

Mr. Jukka Sysilampi/Project manager of TOHTOS project
jukka.sysilampi@uta.fi

Ms. Virpi Juppo

virpi.juppo@uva.fi

