Research on distance learning studies using IT

Jelgava Regional Correspondence School

2019

Erasmus+ KA2 project No. 2018-1-LV01-KA201-046972
«Restarting adult learning skills through new teaching methods» adult research result summary

Adult research about distance learning was made to find out the main problems, compare all partner school situation, to enable adults to take part in a distance learning system. Within the framework of the survey it is planned to find out the students' opinion about distance learning, the best existing teaching methods and satisfaction with such training form. The results of the survey are summarized in order to achieve the goal of the project.
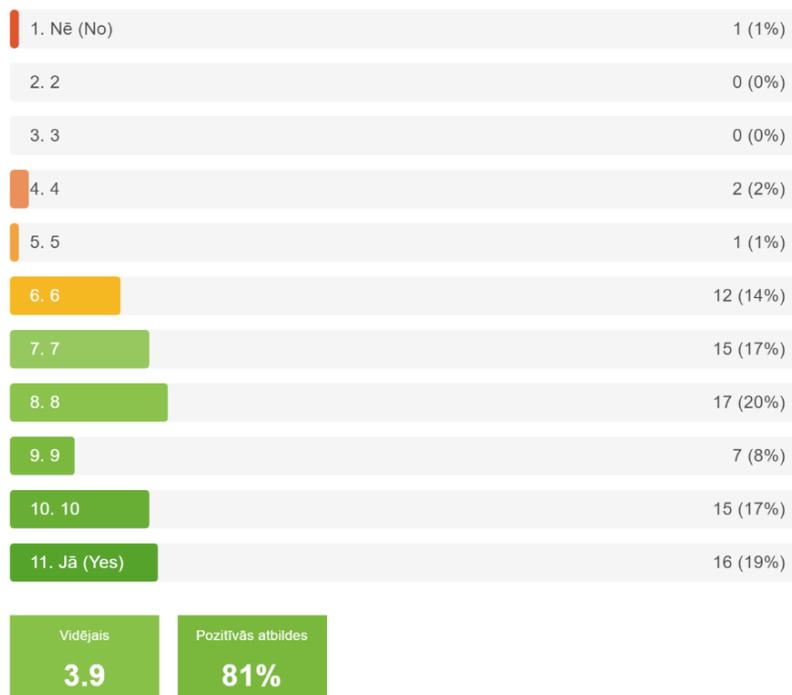
The questionnaire was created using the online tool "Edurio". For each project partner school (Jelgava Regional Correspondence School, Latvia (LV); Tallin Upper Secondary School for Adults, Estonia (EE); Futuro Digitale, Italy (IT)) was created a specific questionnaire based on the same questions. The link to the questionnaire was sent to each partner school electronically. Adults attending distance learning completed this questionnaire from January 29, 2019 to February 20, 2019. During this period, the questionnaire was completed by 197 adults (LV - 72, EE - 85, IT - 40).

All the questions and results in full view we can look in attached "Edurio" pdf documents.

We will look deeper at Latvia questions and results and compare them to Estonia and Italy partner schools, to find out the main imperfection and adult suggestions to improve distance learning methods for better and more successful learning.

1) Vai Jūs esat apmierināts ar tālmācības sistēmas Moodle vizuālo izskatu? (Are you satisfied with the visual design of the Moodle distance learning system?)
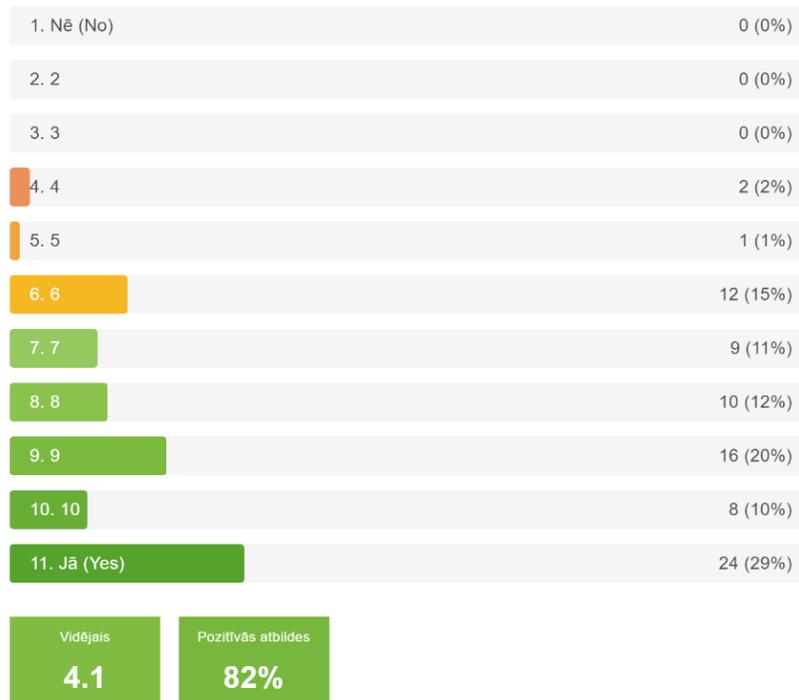
86 atbildes

1. Nē (No)	1 (1%)
2. 2	0 (0%)
3. 3	0 (0%)
4. 4	2 (2%)
5. 5	1 (1%)
6. 6	12 (14%)
7. 7	15 (17%)
8. 8	17 (20%)
9. 9	7 (8%)
10. 10	15 (17%)
11. Jā (Yes)	16 (19%)

Vidējais	Pozitīvās atbildes
3.9	**81%**

As we can see in chart above, in general the positive answers are 81%. That means mainly students are satisfied with the visual design of Moodle distance learning system. In contrast EE school adults 65% have a positive answers and IT students 90% are satisfied with their "AltereduAcademy Platform" visual design. In general, adults with a visual look of the learning environment are satisfied.

But as we now, we have to keep up with the latest IT technologies and keep the distance learning environment date up with innovation, to make the learning environment more modern, attractive and motivating to learn.

2) Vai Jūs saņēmāt pietiekošu un skaidru informāciju par mācībām tālmācībā iestājoties skolā? (Did you receive an introductory Moodle course in the beginning of school year?
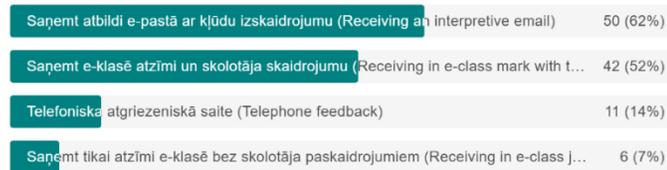
82 atbildes

1. Nē (No)	0 (0%)
2. 2	0 (0%)
3. 3	0 (0%)
4. 4	2 (2%)
5. 5	1 (1%)
6. 6	12 (15%)
7. 7	9 (11%)
8. 8	10 (12%)
9. 9	16 (20%)
10. 10	8 (10%)
11. Jā (Yes)	24 (29%)

Vidējais	Pozitīvās atbildes
4.1	82%

LV adults gives 82% positive answers, that they generally receive enough information in the beginning of school year. EE gives 55% and IT 93% positive answers. All partner schools work hardly to explain to each adult how to use right the learning system, but always there are possibility, that some part of students don`t get how to do it. It should also be noted, that many adults do not perceive the guidance given by the administration for learning, but when they face difficulties during the studying year, they understand that there are problems.

When adults starts school year, all of them receive an informative leaflet containing the main contact details and an explanation of how to connect to the distance learning system.

3) Kāda veida atgriezeniskā saite no skolotājiem Jums patīk vislabāk? (What kind of feedback from a teacher do you like best?)

81 atbildes

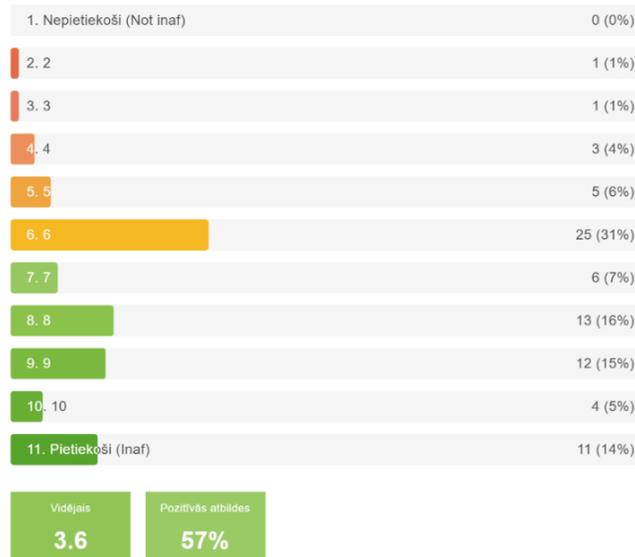|	
Saņemt atbildi e-pastā ar kļūdu izskaidrojumu (Receiving an interpretive email)	50 (62%)
Saņemt e-klasē atzīmi un skolotāja skaidrojumu (Receiving in e-class mark with t...)	42 (52%)
Telefoniska atgriezeniskā saite (Telephone feedback)	11 (14%)
Saņemt tikai atzīmi e-klasē bez skolotāja paskaidrojumiem (Receiving in e-class j...)	6 (7%)

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All partner school students (62% LV, 41% EE, 73% IT) like to receive an interpretive e-mail from teacher about done obligatory tests. EE like to receive mark together with teacher explanation at eKool (49%). That means there is a need for teacher feedback on the student tests.

Learning in distance has a relatively smaller teachers contact with adults than in face-to-face learning, so there is a need to work on ways to more effectively provide feedback to students.

4) Vai Jums pieejamie mācību materiāli Moodle vidē ir pietiekoši, lai apgūtu mācību priekšmetus? (Do you have enough material in the Moodle training course to study the subject?)

81 atbildes

1. Nepietiekoši (Not inaf)	0 (0%)
2. 2	1 (1%)
3. 3	1 (1%)
4. 4	3 (4%)
5. 5	5 (6%)
6. 6	25 (31%)
7. 7	6 (7%)
8. 8	13 (16%)
9. 9	12 (15%)
10. 10	4 (5%)
11. Pietiekoši (Inaf)	11 (14%)

Vidējais	Pozitīvās atbildes
3.6	57%

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Most of adults are satisfied with materials in the distance learning system training courses (LV-57%, EE - 61%, IT - 95%). Some of LV adults give a comment about this question:
- The materials are good but need to be supplemented. I've bought my books.
- Materials can always be fuller and smoother, but on the other hand, it helps me to search for more information and promote my cognitive skills.
- It depends in which subject, because in some subjects the teaching materials are very poor.

It means, that methodical materials are not enough full.

5) Nosauc vispilnīgāko mācību kursu (Name the most complete course)

76 atbildes

Projekti

Manuprāt vispilnīgākais mācību kurss ir kurss kurā ir pilnīgi vis iekļauts lai varētu mācīties!	Vēsture- norādītas konkrētas lappaspuse, kur izlasīt par katru tēmu darbu pildīšanai
iesūtītie mācību materiāli ar piemēriem. Iespēju labot neapmierinātu atzīmi	Es šeit neesen tik esmu uzsāku mācības . Nevaru atbildēt uz šo jautājumu .
Visi kursi ir vienlīdzīgi. Nevienā priekšmetā nepietiek tikai ar Moodl.	ļoti patīk kā darbojas matemātikas un angļu valodas skolotājas
Kimija, biologija,veselibas maciba, kulturalogija	Pagāšgad - Informātika; šogad - matemātika.
Matemātika,latviešu,angļu,fizika,ķīmija.	tie kursi kuri ir uzdevumi.lv vietne.

LV adult comments on this topic:
- In my opinion, the most complete course of study is the course that is all included so you can learn.
- Learning materials with examples are the best. It is satisfying that there is a possibility of improving a mark that I am not satisfied.
- I like a history – there are a specific page to read about each topic for work.
- I like very much math and English language courses.
- I like and use study materials from site www.uzdevumi.lv.

LV adult answers about the complete courses:	EE adults answers about the complete courses:	EE adults answers about the complete courses:
English – 10	Geography - 17	Social media marketing course – 22
Math – 6	Math – 11	Graphics and Photoshop course - 11
Latvian language – 6	Biology – 7	
Biology – 5	English – 6	
Russian language – 4	Music - 5	
Health – 3		
Cultural science - 3		

Here we can see the best marked courses and taka them as samples to make other courses better also improving one another and upgrading with the latest IT.

6) Nosauc visnepilnīgāko mācību kursu (Name the most incomplete course)

74 atbildes

Projekti

lielaka dala. macibu materiali parsvara netiek sniegti. tikai prezentaciju veida. man prezentacijas dators neatver.

Es šeit neesen tik esmu uzsāku mācības . Nevaru atbildēt uz šo jautājumu .

Neviens. Visi ir pilnīgi, labi izskaidroti un parādīti.

fizika. skolotājs ilgi labo un neatbild, bezjēdzīgi

visi ir samērā pilnīgi

Visnepilnīgākais mācību kurss ir kur ir nepietiekami līdzekļi mācību apgūšanai

Visi kursi ir vienlīdzīgi. Nevienā priekšmetā nepietiek tikai ar Moodl.

latviešu valoda - nebija mācību vielas tikai ieskaites

Latvijas un pasaules vēsture

Literatūra 12.klasei

In all participant schools are some adult, who says, that all courses are enough good and complete.

In the table under we can see the adult results they think are most incomplete courses:

LV adult answers about the incomplete courses:	EE adults answers about the incomplete courses:	EE adults answers about the best incomplete courses:
Math – 15	Math – 13	Bio Health course – 25
Physics – 5	History – 7	Hackaton course – 15
History – 4	Chemistry - 8	Pharmacy course - 2
Latvian language – 2	Physics – 7	
Literature - 2	Geography – 4	
	Biology - 3	

7) Vai esat apmierināts, ka mācību tēmas ir izvietotas pa nedēļām? Ja neapmierina, tad kapēc? (Are you satisfied that the topics are arranged weekly? It not, why?)
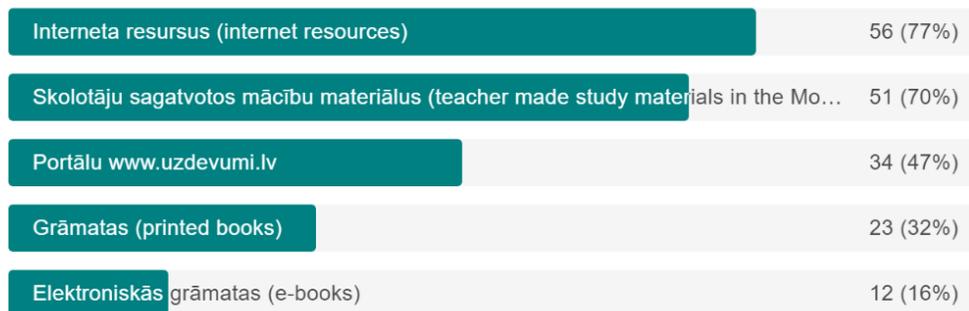
74 atbildes

Esmu apmierināts (I am satisfied)	72 (97%)
Neesmu apmierināts (komentējiet, kapēc?)(I am not satisfied, why?)	2 (3%)

Vidējais	Pozitīvās atbildes
1.1	3%

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LV adults 97% are satisfied with order, that the topics are arranged weekly. Just one student says, that he don`t understand anything and he thinks everything is in chaos. For another student doesn`t meter that topics are arranged weekly, because she learn all the topics for all year at the same time. But mainly that means this kind of topics works fine. EE and IT don`t have such a system with topics, that is why they didn`t have such a question.

8) Kāda veida mācību materiālus Jūs izmantojiet visbiežāk apgūstos mācību priekšmetus? (What study materials do you use for studying the subject?)

73 atbildes

Interneta resursus (internet resources)	56 (77%)
Skolotāju sagatvotos mācību materiālus (teacher made study materials in the Mo…	51 (70%)
Portālu www.uzdevumi.lv	34 (47%)
Grāmatas (printed books)	23 (32%)
Elektroniskās grāmatas (e-books)	12 (16%)

Powered by **Edurio**

LV adults 77% use internet resources, EE 74% accept teacher made study materials in the Moodle environment, IT students 38% use materials from http://www.alteredu.academy/?lang=en . As well as these, they also used different kind of portals, books, e-books who helps in studying process.

This means that students like the opportunity offered by different and diverse teaching materials. There is also a need to draw different ways of receiving information, so learning materials should be as appropriate as possible for all types of perception.

73 atbildes

Jā, es izmantoju (Yes, I do)	29 (40%)
Nē, es nezimantoju, komentē zemāk, kapēc? (No, I don`t, whay?)	44 (60%)

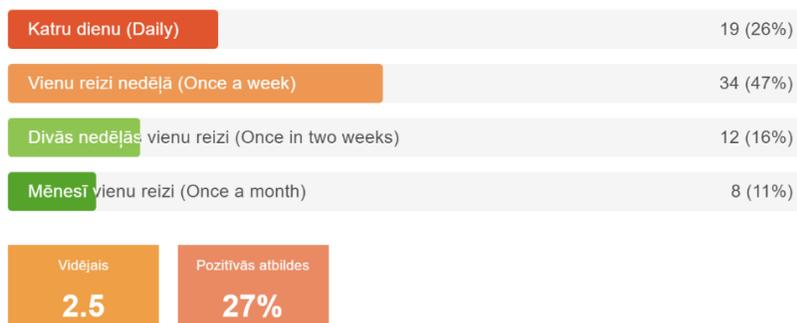| Vidējais	Pozitīvās atbildes
3.4	60%

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Our student used to use the textbooks available in the school library (LV 40%, EE 70%, IT 50%). There are a lot of students who use e-books (they live abroad or far from the school). Some of them think, that it is enough with internet recourses.

All the necessary literature is available in the school libraries as well as learning in many subjects are directly from books.

10) Cik regulāri Jūs mācāties? (How regularly do you study?)

73 atbildes

Katru dienu (Daily)	19 (26%)
Vienu reizi nedēļā (Once a week)	34 (47%)
Divās nedēļās vienu reizi (Once in two weeks)	12 (16%)
Mēnesī vienu reizi (Once a month)	8 (11%)

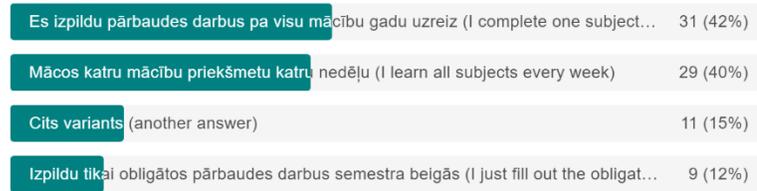| Vidējais	Pozitīvās atbildes
2.5	27%

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As we can see LV results, more of adults try to study once a week (47%).
They have provided the following additional comments:
- I try to learn how often I can, but I have a family and daily responsibilities, I try to plan my time efficiently.
- I learn then when there is a spare moment.
- I learn at very different times, it depends on how is the work schedule or other works.
- I have more time for training in the evenings.

How often adults learn, depends on their social situation, living area, family, self-motivation etc. Very similar situation is in EE school (49% study once a week). But in IT most students (58%) study daily.

11) Pēc kāda principa Jūs mācaties? (Which one of the following options describes Your study methods the best?)

73 atbildes

Es izpildu pārbaudes darbus pa visu mācību gadu uzreiz (I complete one subject…	31 (42%)
Mācos katru mācību priekšmetu katru nedēļu (I learn all subjects every week)	29 (40%)
Cits variants (another answer)	11 (15%)
Izpildu tikai obligātos pārbaudes darbus semestra beigās (I just fill out the obligat…	9 (12%)

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Distance learning adults answer, that they used to study every week (LV-40%, EE-43%, IT-35%) or complete one subject completely, then learn the next (LV-42%, EE- 38%, IT- 43%).

Adults have provided the following additional comments:

- At the beginning I have done the easiest subjects for my abilities and only the subjects that require effort and additional information search.
- Fill all year tests on one subject, then start another one.
- I learn when and how I can, because I have to spend a lot of time at work. Sometimes there is no time for learning a long time.

12) Cik noderīga un atbalstoša ir Jūsu klases audzinātāja? (How helpful and supportive is your classroom teacher?)

73 atbildes

1. Neatbalstoša un nevajadzīga (Unsupportive)	0 (0%)
2. 2	0 (0%)
3. 3	1 (1%)
4. 4	0 (0%)
5. 5	0 (0%)
6. 6	5 (7%)
7. 7	2 (3%)
8. 8	4 (5%)
9. 9	6 (8%)
10. 10	10 (14%)
11. Ļoti atbalstoša un vajadzīga (Very supportive)	45 (62%)

Vidējais	Pozitīvās atbildes
4.6	92%

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The biggest part says that classroom teacher is very supportive (LV-62%, EE-31%, IT-50%). We can explain that because of learning method that is distanced. Classroom teacher is the first person in case of misunderstandings and confusion situations. There is close cooperation between both for successfully complete the school.

13) Ko Jūs vēlētos uzlabot tālmācības sistēmā Moodle un apmācību formā, lai labāk apgūtu mācību vielu? (Do You have any improvement ideas for Moodle distance learning system?)

72 atbildes

Projekti

Visos priekšmetos katrai nedēļai, lai būtu par noteikto tēmu prezentācija,manuprāt, pēc prezentācijām ir daudz vieglāk apgūt mācību vielu. Dažos priekšmetos ir pēc grāmatām kuras internetā nevaru atrast un tad ir grūtāk apgūt, piemēram, kā vēsture, bet fizikas dotajai grāmatai jāvelta daudz laiks kuru varētu ekonomēt , ja būtu prezentācijas veidā mācību materiāli, jo tur būtu tikai svarīgākā informācija un visa uzmanība būtu pievērsta tieši tam kas ir jāzin par noteikto tēmu.

Nezinu, ko ieteikt, jo man šķiet, ak viss tāpat ir pietiekoši labi. Skaidrs gan, ka TIKAI ar Moodle formu ir par maz, lai saprastu vielu.Par cik es pirmo reizi šādā veidā mācos, tad, kā jau minēju, pirmajā gadā kamēr sapratu, aptvēru kas, kur , kā notiek, bija priekš manis psiholoģiski grūti sākt mācīties tajā brīdī, kad sapratu, kā tas notiek. Bet principā sistēma kā tāda ir laba.

Lai atzīmētos darbi, kurus jau esmu izpildījusi. Reizēm sajūk, jo kopā ir gan izpildītie darbi, gan neizpildītie, kā arī , izpildot visu gada vielu konkrētā priekšmetā, tas priekšmets varētu vairs neuzrādīties pie pildāmajiem. Lai es reāli redzu tikai to, kas man vēl ir jāpilda. Jau izpildītie mācību priekšmeti vai darbi varētu būt kaut kur atsevišķi.

lai priekšmeta mācāmās tēmas ir atsevišķ no pārbaudes darbiem pārbaudes darbus varētu likt atsevišķi lai nav jāmaldās par nedēļām un priekšmetiem. un būtu patīkami ja varētu atzīmēt kurs ir izpildīts un kāda atzīme jo tagad ja kāda atzīme pietrūkst jāmeklē e-klase . vai ir tas darbs pildīts un vai ir atzīme,jo tam visam newar izsekot līdz..

Lūdzu, lūdzu, nākotnes studentu labā, Literatūrā 11. klasē ieliecet interesantākas tēmas/grāmatas. man patīk lasīt, bet nu 11. klases literatūra ir kā zobu sāpes!!!!!

Zinu, ka bioloģijā ir powerpoint prezentācijas kuras ir ļoti pamācošas. Būtu labi ja tā būtu vairāk mācībām. Ar vēsturi man gāja grutāk nekā ar citām mācībām

Saprotamākus mācību materiālus.Bieži vien materiāli nepalīdz pat apgūt to kas ir vajadzīgs ieskaitei,nākas informāciju meklēt daudzos citos resursos.

Manuprāt, vajadzētu vairāk mācību materiālus tieši mācību priekšmetiem, ko jākārto eksāmenā, lai varētu kārtīgi un padziļināti iemācīties tēmas.

Es vēlētos savas atzīmes redzēt moodle sistēmā, jo jau divas reizes ir gadījies, ka mans darbs netīšām nav nonacis līdz skolotājai

Būtu interesanti, ja, teiksim, mācoties 10. klasē, man būtu iespēja jau ielūkoties, kas sagaidāms 11. klases mācību kursā.

Very important question is about improvement ideas for distance learning system.

LV students have provided the following additional comments:

- I wish that in all subjects for each week should be a presentation on the topic, I think it is much easier to get the lesson idea.
- I would like to see marked tests already completed because they are enough. This would reduce the confusion I have already made and what not.
- After seeing that I've completed all the tests in a particular subject, this subject is no longer active, so I know I have completed it.
- Training materials should be more understandable and precise, as there are cases where materials do not help to prepare for the test.

- I want to see my marks in the Moodle system.
- It would be good to separate the tests from the topics to make them easier to find and not to be disappointed in weeks.
- In my opinion, the most complete must be training courses in which we have to pass the state final examinations, please prepare them fully.
- I want more explanation of the study material for all courses-3
- Don't want to improve or change anything – 16
- Everything is satisfied – 15

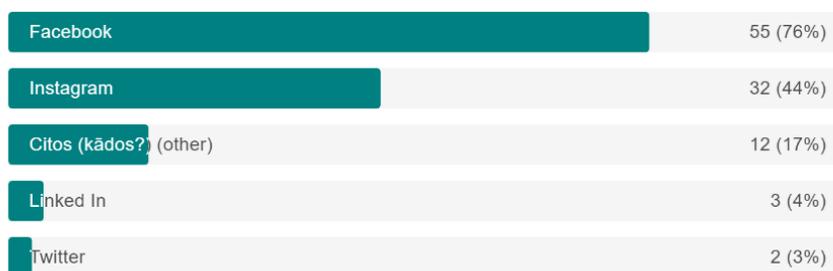EE students have provided the following additional comments:
- Punctuations and other minor mistakes on an otherwise correct answer currently don't let students get points on tests. Teachers never confirm the effort put into an otherwise correct answer. Interaction could be improved, to better show updates made by teachers, visited links, tests or attachments should display a different color and a selection to choose how many study courses to show per page would be nice.
- It could delete courses which are passed or delete them at least by the end of the year...I don't like seeing some courses which I finished over a year ago.
- It should be easy to notice the deadlines and teachers should make the moodle corse as clear as possible.
- Some Moodle courses are better, than the others, but I'd say good thing would be, when you log into Moodle, there is right way one newsfeed, which reminds all the subjects, what has to be done by due date. Without separately going to courses and then see, what has to be done. This way, personally I would feel even more organized, because happens that I had forgotten to watch one subject, where I missed the due date and got bad grade.
- I don't have much to complain about, I'm thankful the online stuff exists and I wish it had existed when I was younger as I really wished I didn`t need all these heavy books.
- As a beginner, I think Moodle should fix finding parties or subjects. Like for example, name your school and which subjects are available.
- It should be made a lot EASIER. There's too much info and writing on each page, Moodle is a great idea but there's a lot to improve.
- Courses should be better structured
- More materials in courses -5
- No ideas

IT students have provided the following additional comments:
- Platform should be more simple - 2
- Platform should be faster -3
- Don't want to improve or change anything – 30

14) Nosauciet sociālos tīklus, kuros Jūs esat aktīvs ikdienā.
(Marks the social networks in which you are active daily)

72 atbildes

Social Network	Responses
Facebook	55 (76%)
Instagram	32 (44%)
Citos (kādos?) (other)	12 (17%)
Linked In	3 (4%)
Twitter	2 (3%)

Powered by Edurio

For LV important is to now in what social networks our adults are active. Most of them frequent visits Facebook (76%) and Instagram (44%). That means we should work more at this social networks to reach our existing and potential students.

CONCLUSIONS

1. Comparing the project partner schools, the situation is very similar in Jelgava District Correspondence School, Latvia (LV) and Tallin Upper Secondary School for Adults, Estonia (EE), because they both use Moodle distance learning platform. In Futuro Digitale, Italy (IT) they use another distance learning system – "AltereduAcademy platform".
2. Periodically should be done technical updating of distance learning systems to follow the latest IT tools.
3. There should be a toolkit for adults on how to learn in a distance learning system, where to look if needed. Also leaflets would be good containing internet links, where adults could find additional information on the subjects.
4. Adults need to provide a more qualitative and more complete feedback of tests, it must be systematic and understandable.
5. Each training course needs to develop and diversify learning materials so that they can be perceived in different ways of perception. This differentiation of teaching materials will improve the motivation of adult learning and increase self-control skills.
6. All subject courses should be evaluated and developed with the most effective teaching materials that best explain the subject, including the creation of training videos.
7. The schools are obliged to provide adults with the necessary educational literature, so everyone has the opportunity to receive paper books or electronic (not all) books. Adults choose to have books they need or not.
8. How often adults learn, depends on their social situation, living area, family, self-motivation etc.
9. Very similar situation is in EE school (49% study once a week). But in IT most students (58%) study daily.

13

10. The results of the survey show that a class teacher plays a major role as it is the first person to support an adult in case of uncertainty. This quickly resolve unclear issues.
11. Discusions about 13th question in Italy meeting – what should we can improve from adult advises.