DIGITAL SKILLS IN ACTION NATIONAL FORUM INSIGHT JUNE 2016

Overview of the project

Digital Skills in Action is a Teaching Enhancement Fund Project 2015 developed by Leinster Pillar 1 Cluster with Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art Design and Technology as the lead and Marino Institute of Education, National College of Art and Design, Trinity College Dublin and University College Dublin as partners. This was the first teaching and learning project for the cluster.

The project used the All Aboard Digital Skills framework for higher education as a starting point, identified one or more case studies within each institution and using the All Aboard framework developed the case studies. The project ran its Technology Enhanced Learning Week from 8-15 March with each institution taking one day to showcase the case studies as they had developed to that date. Work continued on the case studies following the TEL week and materials subsequently developed or are in the process of being developed.

DIGITAL SKILLS IN ACTION

Project Partners

The project partners, case studies and disciplines with the 2016 TEL Week dates are shown in the table.

	TEL WEEK DATE	PROJECT COORDINATOR	CASE STUDY	DISCIPLINES
Marino Institute of Education	Tuesday 8 March 2016	Alison Egan Alison.Egan@mie.ie	Curriculum Integration, Imagination and Innovation & Second Life @ MIE	Art – primary teaching
UCD	Wednesday 9 March 2016	David Jennings david.jennings@ucd.ie	CS 1: Reusable Learning Resource (RLR) to assist undergraduate nursing students' learning of wound care CS 2: 2 SNAPIs as a Reusable Learning Resource (RLR) for an on-line post-graduate Veterinary Programme.	Nursing Veterinary
TCD	Thursday 10 March 2016	Theresa Logan-Phelan Teresa.Logan-Phelan@tcd.ie	Learning through reflection	Engineering
IADT	Friday 11 March 2016	Marion Palmer Marion.palmer@iadt.ie	Digital aspects of Introduction to FACT a first year module.	Interdisciplinary – transition to college
NCAD	Tuesday 15 March 2016	Nuala Hunt huntn@ncad.ie	CS 1: Screen Casting as a method for teaching digital skills. CS 2: Teaching Technical Skills to year 1 design students.	Art teacher education Design students

Key outcomes of the project

The first outcome was the introduction of the All Aboard digital skills framework to the cluster. UCD as a partner in the NF All Aboard project provided briefings to IADT and NCAD. They were well received and as the first step in the project, it enabled the five institutions to develop a shared understanding of the framework. This enabled us to explore and enhance digital skills for teaching and learning across a range of disciplines.

The case studies used the All Aboard framework to explore modules, identify issues and develop exemplars for staff and students across a range of disciplines. Parallel to this work at institution level there was increased communication and collaboration across the cluster as the project team met regularly to review and plan the work as well as attending TEL days across the cluster. The Technology Enhanced Learning (TEL) Week ran from 8-15 March across the cluster. There were five dedicated local TEL days with 157 participants across five institutions and over 20 independent presentations/workshops.

Case studies and resources developed.

There were seven disciplinary case studies produced, with a mixture of faculty, technical and student support. Twenty five individual resources have currently been developed with over 10 hours of interactive materials and guides and over 690 students were and will be exposed to these new resources during the project and in the coming year.

All the project materials, particularly the case studies and associated resources, are available on a Blackboard Course site. They are open to all but enrolment in the course is required, to join the course email DSIA@gmx.com.

Benefit of the project to students, staff and community

The project has had a local and regional impact. It has raised awareness of technology enhanced learning and the All Aboard digital skills framework. It has enabled the sharing of expertise and resources through course sites. Working as a team across the cluster has enabled each institution to access an extended pool of TEL professionals and supported the upskilling of team members. An example of this was the Camtasia workshop at TCD on the 10th March which was attended by participants from across the cluster. David Jennings led a session on the IADT Certificate in Technology Enhanced Learning as an outcome of this project. At local level it enabled teams in a range of disciplines to explore technology for learning and the development of modules and resources for student learning across the case study module. Nursing students in UCD are using RLRs to learn about wound care, IADT students will be using a digital toolkit to develop their digital skills, primary education students at MIE are learning in Second Life, engineering students in TCD are reflecting on their learning and developing the soft skills they need whilst students at NCAD are learning digital skills through screencasts.

Benefit to higher education sector nationally

The five institutions taking part worked together to complete the project despite their variations in size, student numbers, range of disciplines and complexity. Working as a collaborative team has enabled the project to take place effectively with both shared digital and intellectual resources across the HE sector. Based upon the project outcomes there have been two conference presentations at EdTech2016 – one on the overall learning from the project and one on the IADT case study.

More information

Please contact the local coordinators as above for more information.

Reference

All Aboard. (2015). *All Aboard Digital Skills in Higher Education.* Retrieved from http://allaboardhe.org/