

# Announcing the Eumetcal Moodle online course

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**Did you know that you can organize your courses using the tools Eumetcal puts at disposal of member states? One of these is Moodle, a tool that allows you to organize the content of your courses and assist students and instructors involved in it, especially in e-learning activities.**

**If you wish to improve your skills in Moodle and learn how to use it in your training activities do not miss this unique chance!**

## Introduction

The Eumetcal Moodle online course will take place **8 -11 February 2010**. The course will be the first offered by Eumetcal on this topic and will be run completely online.

The course is structured in the following way:

- two 1-hour online lessons per day at 09 UTC and 13 UTC (exception Thurs 11 Feb: only 13 UTC)
- two offline assignments to be carried out between the two online sessions of 9 and 10 Feb, respectively, and a third one in the morning of 11 Feb prior to the last session of the course. Each assignment requires about two hours of work.

The course requires in total about 13 hours working time.

## WHAT IS MOODLE

Moodle is a learning management system (LMS): this does not likely tell you much. Let's us try to open up this definition and understand what actually Moodle is and how you can benefit its functionalities in your training activities.

Moodle is a software, which is mainly used as tool for organizing distance courses, but it can be used as well as supporting environment in residence training courses.

With Moodle you can create a virtual learning/teaching environment which can be accessed from within the network (internet or intranet). In this virtual space you can add and share all kind of electronic content (presentations, documents, links, videos, etc), organize it in the way the best fits your purposes, e.g. by days (of the course) or by topics, and also create content, like for example the instruction on how to reach the training center with attached the Google Map link.



As in the real world, the virtual course is accounting for registered students and teachers, who can add their pictures and update a profile where they can tell all about themselves (contact information, professional background, personal information, hobbies, etc.). Every student can access the virtual course from the network and browse other student profile, send private messages to instructors or to other students and even keep a blog.

Beyond these very basic features Moodle allows the use of many other features at different level of complexity: forums, wikis for editing a common document, uploading of material like assignments and corresponding grading by the instructors, quizzes and surveys, common online calendar, etc.

In case you wish to see concrete examples of courses based on Moodle and taste how it will allow you to improve your skills and possibilities to create and organize distance or residence training activities, please have a glance at the following virtual course environment:

- Eumetcal Flash workshop: example of the use of Moodle for realizing an environment supporting a hands-on workshop

( <http://www.eumetcal.org/courses/course/view.php?id=147> )

- Eumetcal Satellite course: example of the use of Moodle for creating the virtual environment for the distance phase of the blended course

( <http://www.eumetcal.org/courses/course/view.php?id=135> )

## Target audience

The course is addressed to those people, who account among their duties planning and organization of training activities within their affiliations.

## Prerequisites

- Strong interests in organizing and delivering distance and traditional courses
- Current working position heavily involved in training
- Working knowledge in the English language
- preferably a very basic knowledge of Moodle
- working within an organization affiliated to the Eumetcal Programme

## Outcomes of the course

The successful participant will not walk away an expert after the workshop, but will learn enough to start working independently.

After the workshop the participants are encouraged to apply their skills for creating training virtual courses supporting either residence or distance courses within their affiliations or in connection to Eumetcal Programme's activities.

## Software

Moodle is open source software, which means that anybody can download it and install it on whatever server.

However you DO NOT NEED to install any software, neither for attending the course nor for creating your own courses afterwards: Eumetcal has a Moodle platform, called Eumetcal Virtual College, which can offer space to the member states for their internal training activities.

One of the most important outcomes is the effective use and further development of the skills learned in the course: you are therefore strongly encouraged to apply for some space on the Eumetcal Virtual College (Moodle) to be used for training purposes within your affiliation.

## The instructors

The instructors of the course have used Moodle for some years in their work for organizing the content and activities related to the Eumetcal blended course and workshops.

<b>Alessandro Chiariello (FMI)</b>	Alessandro has been working for one year as Training Support Officer within the Eumetcal Programme. In this period he has been continuously improving his skill in Moodle and gaining experience in using Moodle for supporting the distant part of the Eumetcal blended courses.
<b>Vesa Nietosvaara (FMI)</b>	Vesa is the Eumetcal Programme Manager and has a several years experience in the use of Moodle in connection with the Eumetcal activities and other international training projects.

## Applications

Application should be submitted by filling the following electronic application form:

<http://www.webropol.com/P.aspx?id=393625&cid=110026035>

### **Application deadline 31 January 2010**

Students selected and notified by 01 February 2010

Maximum amount of students allowed: 12 (preferably not more than one from the same affiliation)

## Course fee

There is no fee for participating in the course.