



# Digital learning environments: do you need to review, replace or refresh?

## **Panellists**

Sally Jorjani: Edinburgh Napier University

Farzana Latif: University of Sheffield

Julie Voce: City, University of London

## **Chair**

Gill Ferrell: EUNIS

# The Campus for the future is both physical and virtual

Central to the learning ecosystem in most universities is a:

- Virtual Learning Environment (VLE)
- Learning Management System (LMS)
- Learning Platform
- Next Generation Digital Learning Environment (NGDLE)



# Key questions about the VLE



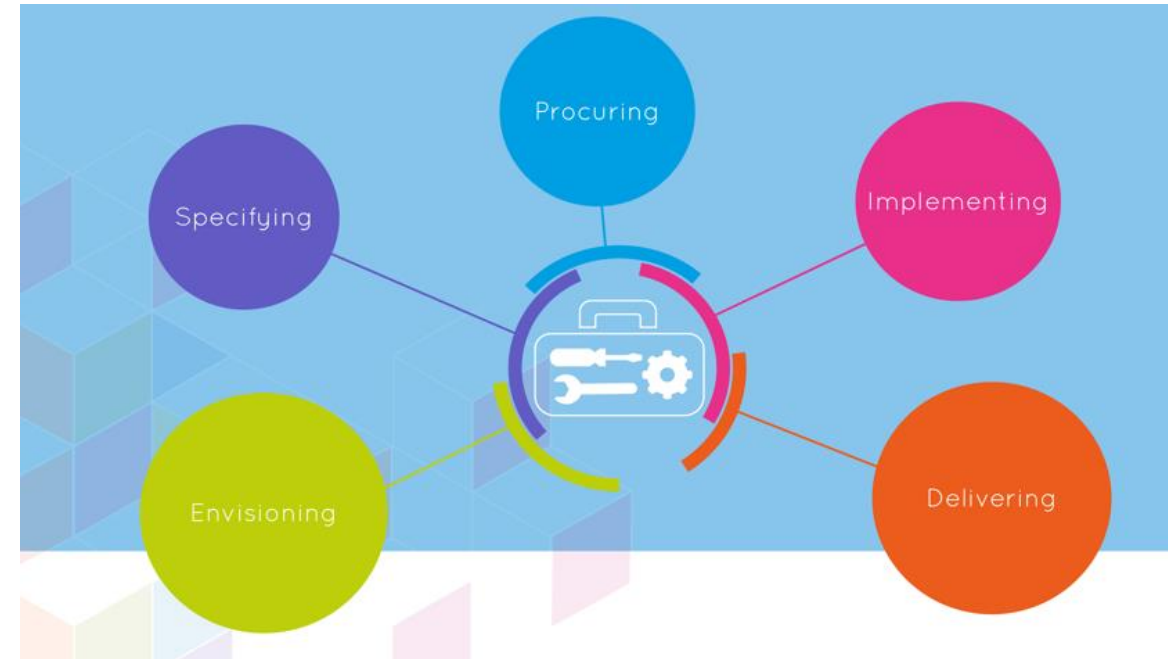
- Do we still need one?
- Are we getting value for money?
- Are we using it to maximum benefit?
- How many different tools do we need?
- What differentiates the available products?
- Will it meet our needs in the future?
- Can we afford to change the VLE?
- Can we afford not to change the VLE?

# Welcome to the UCISA VLE Review Toolkit



We help you to answer all those questions and many more:

- Based on recent experiences
- We talked to universities and suppliers
- Input from EUNIS members
  - City, University of London
  - Edinburgh Napier University
  - Manchester Metropolitan University
  - University College London
  - University of Glasgow
  - University of Sheffield
  - Blackboard
  - Input from Denmark and Netherlands



# About this session



- **Perspectives:** vignettes of 3 reviews with different outcomes
- **Panel:** Questions & Answers
- **Participation:** submit your questions at any time
  - Go to [www.menti.com](https://www.menti.com)
  - Enter the code **55 43 7**
  - Type your comment or question

<https://vle.ucisa.ac.uk>

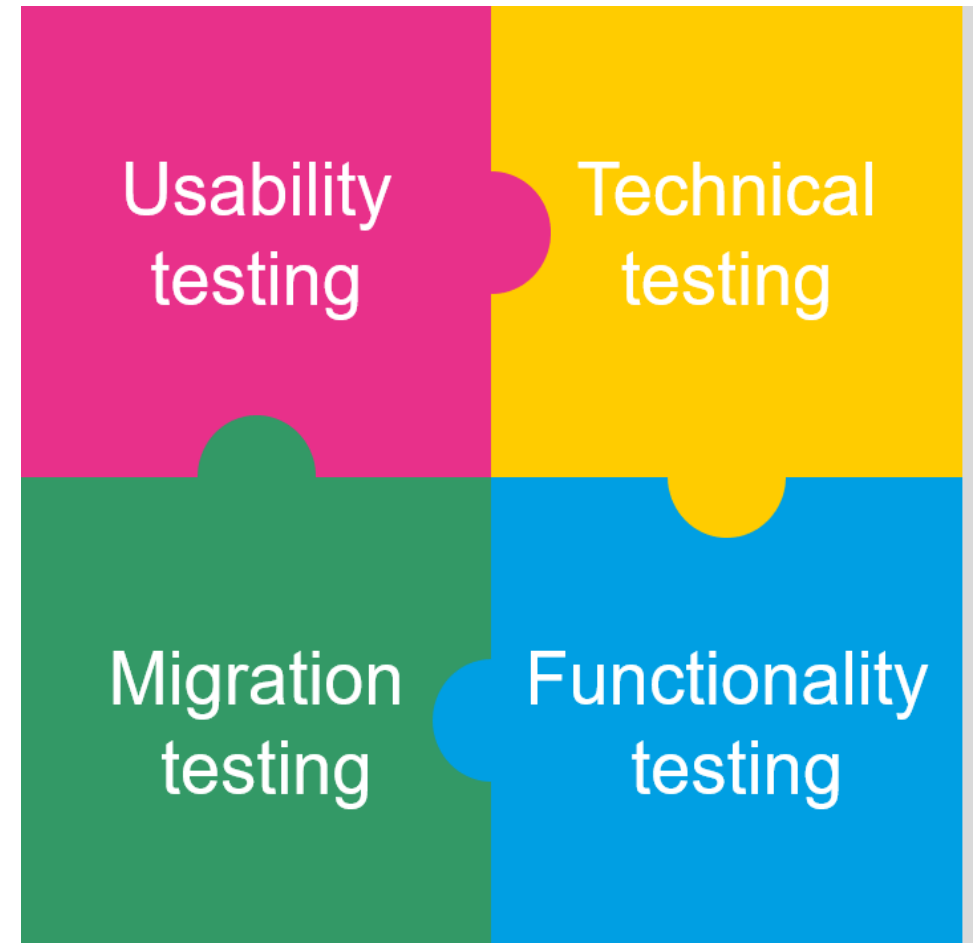
# Try before you buy

Imperial College London



Imperial did extensive piloting of two VLES:

- Knew a lot about staff perceptions but less about student views
- The pilots changed the final outcome
- Showed the realities from installation to data migration
- Different parts of the institution applied different implementation models



# Moving to open source

Edinburgh Napier University



The University moved from a commercial VLE to Moodle:

- Academic staff liked the ethos and flexibility
- IT staff initially worried about the lack of commercial research and development behind the product
- Change management tips equally useful when changing hosting arrangement or moving to Software as a Service



# Changing practice without changing VLE

University of Sheffield

The University stayed with its existing VLE but changed its procedures and upskilled users:

- Used digital technology to submit and vote on ideas
- 'Refresh' branding was important to get the message across
- Student ambassadors trained academics
- Minimum standards applied





# Panel discussion

Submit your comments and questions



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**Thank you**