Creating Virtual Learning Environment for Higher Education Institutions

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University of Zagreb University Computing Centre (SRCE)

• SRCE was founded in 1971 within the University of Zagreb
• Today, SRCE is the main computing centre and the architect of the e-infrastructure, covering both the University of Zagreb and the whole research and high education system
• SRCE is the competence center for information and communication technologies as well as the center for education and support in the area of ICT application
E-learning Centre (ELC)

• The E-learning Centre was established at the University Computing Centre of the University of Zagreb in 2007
• Today is a focal point for systematic take-up and supporting e-learning across the higher education institutions in Croatia
• Basic objectives of the E-learning Centre are:
  • to provide and maintain a reliable and generally accessible university platform for e-learning
  • to provide support to teachers, students, e-learning teams and institutions
  • to support the university network of people involved or interested in e-learning
  • to promote and foster the e-learning implementation
E-learning Centre activities
User support

• Technical support to users who work with e-learning technologies maintained by the E-learning Centre

• Advised support to teachers in preparation and maintenance of e-courses (help desk, consultancy, projects on the e-course development)

• Training Courses (on-line & f2f) on the use of e-learning technologies maintained by the E-learning Centre

• Manuals, instructions and animations about the use of e-learning technologies

• Promotional activities with the aim to raise awareness on e-learning and create a network of people
Distance education systems maintained by ELC

- **Merlin** – VLE for courses in higher education
- **MoD** – e-learning system for e-learning projects in community
- **MuS** – e-learning system for schools
- **Moodle2Test** – e-learning system for testing
- **Moodle2Demo** – demo e-learning system in Croatian
- **E-portfolio system**
- **System for Webinars**
- All systems are accessible using Single Sign-On (SSO) for authentication and authorization through AAI@EduHr infrastructure
Virtual Learning Environment for Higher Education Institutions

- **MojOblak (ownCloud)**
- **ISVU**

**VLE Merlin**
- Merlin Archives (Moodle)
- Merlin Mobile (app + AirNotifier)
- E-portfolio (Mahara)
- Webinars (Adobe Connect)
- Moodle2Test (Moodle)
VLE - infrastructure
Merlin

- [http://merlin.srce.hr](http://merlin.srce.hr)
- e-learning platform based on Moodle
- System for managing and distributing courses over Internet
- Reliable and free of charge e-learning platform for higher education institutions, academic staff and students
- Integrated with ISVU and MojOblak
Merlin

- First installation was made in 2007
- Course archive for last five academic years
- VLE Merlin hosts 4,970 e-courses, used by over 2,350 teachers and 33,400 students in the current academic year
- Over 12,200 archived e-courses and over 78,700 users in total
- Moodle version 2.9 has been installed for the academic year 2015/2016
- It is continuously upgraded, optimized, maintained and modified to users needs
- Optimal user experience through universal design principles, responsive web design and Mobile App
- In current academic year on Merlin there are over 4,600 assignments, 2,000 quizzes, 6,400 forums and 40,200 files
Webinars

- [https://connect.srce.hr](https://connect.srce.hr)
- Web based seminar system based on Adobe Connect
- Webinar is a presentation, lecture, workshop or a seminar in real time over the Internet. It enables audio, video and text communication between attendees.
- A webinars' main feature is its interactivity, especially the ability to send and receive information which enables interaction between a presenter and participants located on various different locations
- System hosts 405 meeting rooms and has more than 9,400 registered users
E-portfolio

- [http://merlin.srce.hr/eportfolio/](http://merlin.srce.hr/eportfolio/)
- Electronic portfolio system based on Mahara
- Collection of digital resources produced by someone
- In education: a collection of documents describing student/teacher work, efforts, progress and achievement in one or more areas over time
- Different types of data (text files, pictures, video and audio clips, blogs and bookmarks)
- Flexible and transportable
- There are over 44,000 pages created by over 18,200 registered users
Merlin users

• In total 82 institutions (6 universities, 10 Polytechnic and school of professional higher education)
• 29 institutional users
• 19 institutions using Merlin - ISVU connection
• University of Zagreb – 32 institutions using Merlin, 17 as institutional users
• For University of Zadar and University of Dubrovnik Merlin is the official e-learning system
Merlin - Number of e-courses and registered users per academic year
Merlin - Number of enrolled teachers and students per academic year

- Teachers:
  - 2011-2012: 640
  - 2012-2013: 14.943
  - 2013-2014: 19.167
  - 2014-2015: 25.387
  - 2015-2016: 31.023

- Students:
  - 2011-2012: 9.120
  - 2012-2013: 1.147
  - 2013-2014: 1.311
  - 2014-2015: 2.084
  - 2015-2016: 2.306
Merlin - Users on monthly basis (Google Analytics)
Merlin - Concurrent users (daily peek)
Merlin - amount of learning materials in GB
Next steps...

• To provide disaster recovery on SRCE second data center location
• To prepare the VLE for the next academic year (with all additional materials and support)
• Further integration of Merlin with ISVU
• To integrate Merlin with Digital Academic Archivers and Repositories
• To optimize the existing system to maximize usability of the existing resources
Questions?

http://www.srce.unizg.hr/en/elc

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