Social Media: challenges with implemented and floating ideas in online study programmes for part time students

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This e presentation aims at

- introducing the model of online distance learning and the profile of distance students at DOBA Faculty
- introducing some important theoretical aspects of using social media in higher education related to the online distance model
- presenting the integration of social media in teaching, learning and assessment in study programmes conducted fully online for part time students
- identifying the benefits of using social media as well as highlighting some of the problematic issues surrounding the present and the future use of social media at DOBA Faculty
- proposing an agenda for further research and development of pedagogy 2.0 in distance education





DOBA Faculty – Vision&Mission



With innovative programmes and approaches we turn challenges into opportunities.





DOBA Faculty: in words and figures

- Established in 2004
- Private independent HEI
- Since 2005/2006
 - implementation of programms
 - traditional and distance study mode
- 5 accredited bachelor programmes
- 3 accredited master programmes
- 1 joint Programme in the accreditation process
- 1531 students in 2010/2011
- 100 % part-time students
- 87 % distance students
- 109 teachers and tutors
 - 93% external
- 31 guest lecturers
- 18 staff

- Maribor, Ljubljana, Belgrade (Serbia)
- Since 2007: Erasmus University Charter
- Since 2007: virtual mobility
- 2008: externally evaluated
- 2011: in the process of international accreditation for distance study mode





Students' profile

- General characteristics
 - 65% female
 - 42% 25-34 ys
 - 38% 35-44 ys
 - 84% employed
 - 78% self-funded
 - 87% broadband
 - digital immigrants
 - Geographically dispersed

- Motivational factors
 - Ba/Ma degree
 - New knowledge and skills
 - New career
- Expectations
 - Practical knowledge
 - Professional attitude
 - Good communication
 - Fair-Play



Quality Standars

- Success rate (1st exam term): 87 %
- Retention rate: 85 %
- Overall satisfaction with the programme: 5,9/7
- Satisfaction with teachers: 6,1/7
- Satisfaction with tutors: 6,3/7
- 65% graduates
- Satifactions of graduates with the programme (6 months 1 year after graduation): 6,1/7





Feedback from Students

'This was the best tutor: friendly, correct, professional.'



'Teacher could have responded more often.'

'Deadlines during the week are for us – employed students – difficult to stick to. I only have time to study during the weekend.

'Learning material was very useful, with a number of practical examples. During this coruse I really learnt a lot.'



Distance Learning Model

- supported online learning
- social constructivism, collaborative learning, problem based learning
- continuous assessment
- introductory day&week
- 4-6 week modules
- weekly activities and tasks
- virtual meetings
- (online) examination

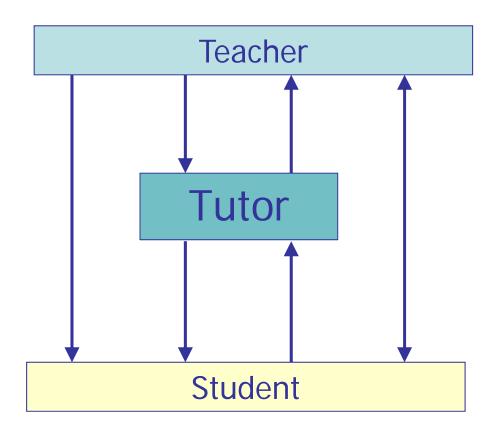








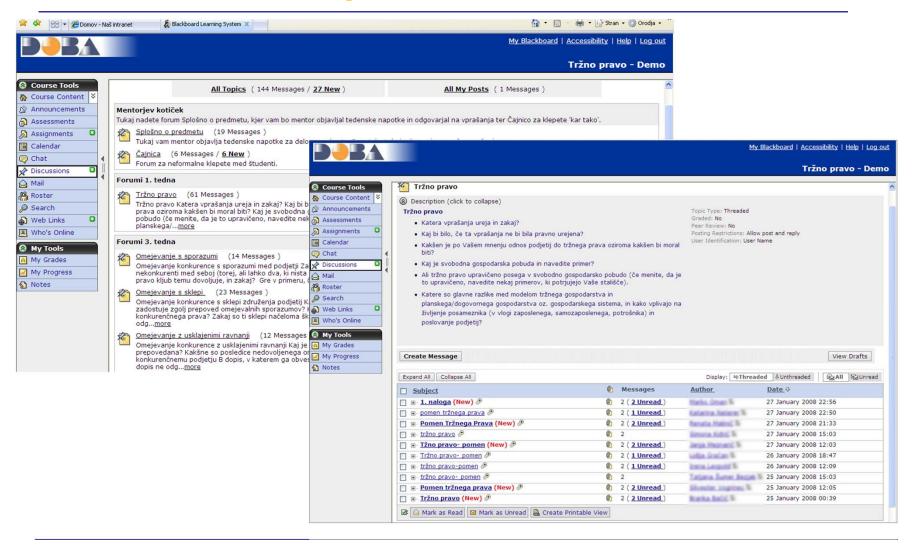
Roles&Communication







Collaborative Learning - Value Added



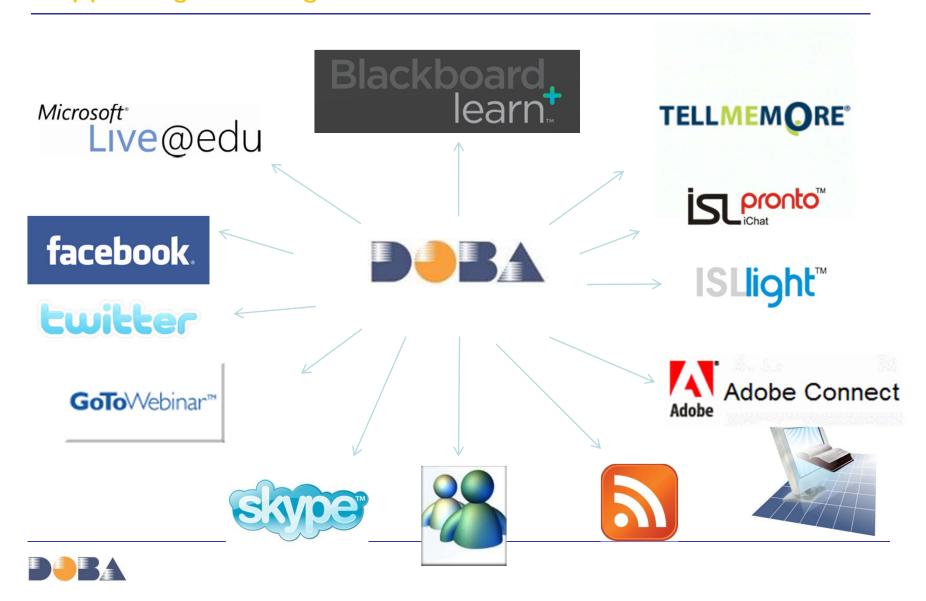


Course Materials





Supporting techologies

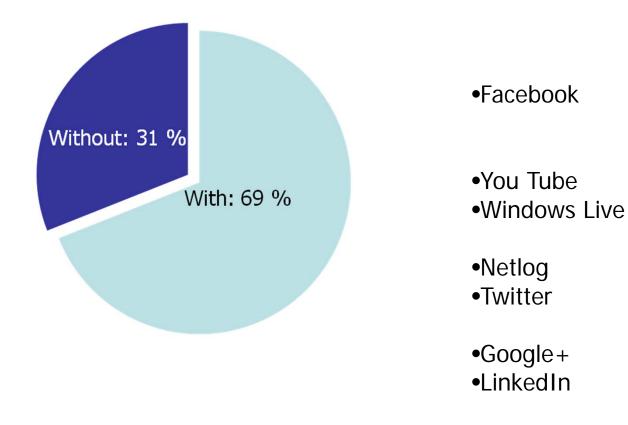


Social media – theoretical context

- The power of social software: content personalization and remixing with other data to create much more useful information and knowledge (MacManus and Porter, 2005)
- Shift in paradigm of pedagogy (Paulsen, 2003)
 - Dichotomy between closed institutionalized learning tools and open social software
 - Pedagogical tension between the urge for individual independence and personalization
 - Need for LMS to integrate those individualized tools
- In new eLearning landscapes learners appear as either emigrants or immigratns who leave or join the institutional landscape for particular purposes (Fiedler, 2006)
- Online communication can be hyperpersonal, even more friendly, social and intimated than f2f communication. (Walther&Parks, 2002)



Social media facts – Students at DF with a SM profile in %







Social Media Facts – Experience and use in %



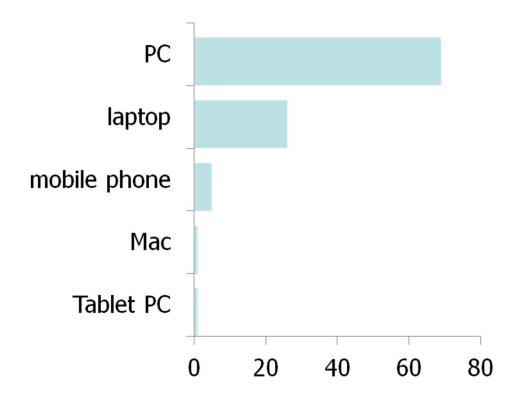
Frequency:

- 88 % up to 1 hour a day
- 59 % up to 1 hour a week
- 34 % up to 10 hours a week





Social media facts – Access in %



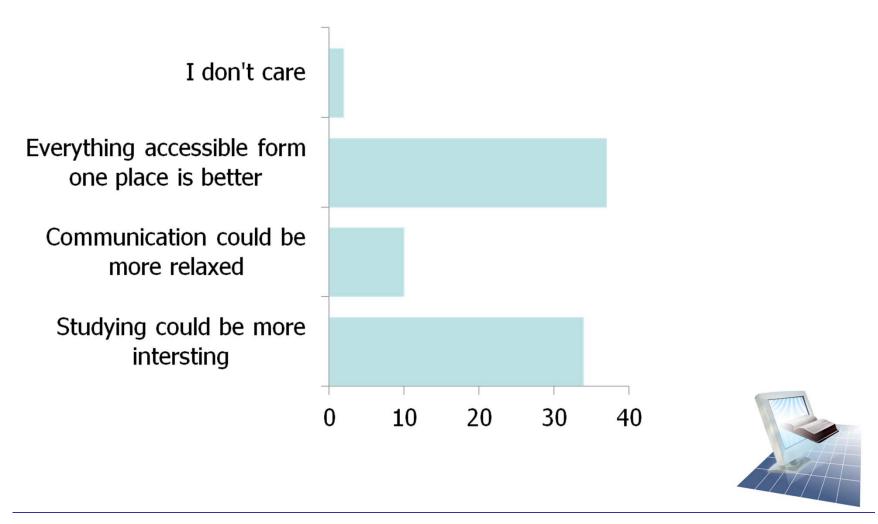
Reasons

- 56% socializing
- 29% being up to date with events
- 13% study/career related purposes





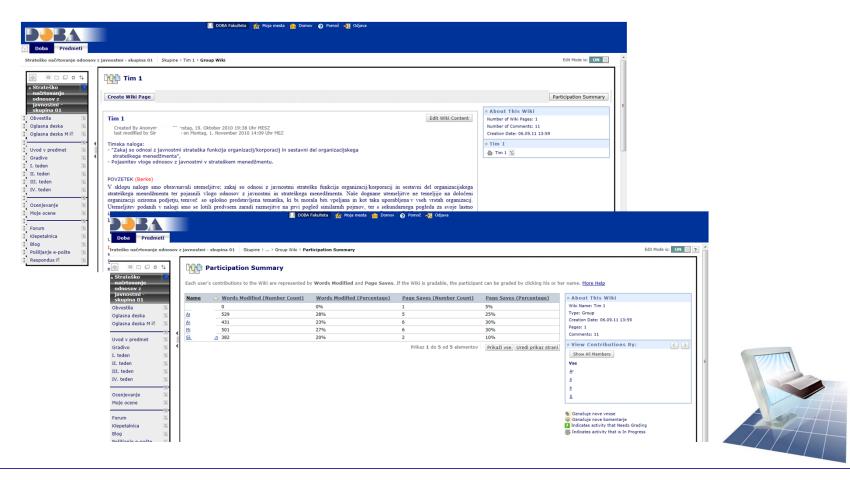
Social media opinion: Use for educational purposes





Social media – integration into the pedagogical model

Wiki: standard for team assignments; collaboration: self&peer assessment





Social media – integration into our pedagogical model

• Blogs: (Self)-reflection, literature review, opinion sharing, expectations







Social media – integration into the pedagogical model

- IM
 - Virtual office hours
 - Remote help
 - Online counselling
- Twitter
 - Covering events
 - Programme related news

- Facebook
 - Extra curriculum communication with studnets
 - Marketing&promotion purposes





Social media – challenges in the institutional context

- Freedom and flexibility versus guidance
- Freedom and flexibility versus control
- ,Need to know' versus ,nice to know' and information overload
- Consistency versus diversity
- Academic freedom versus uniformity?
- More is still more?
- Teachers as digital immigrants
- Privacy and security excuses?
- New roles of HEI
- Future scenarios?
 - 21st century skills
 - 21st century students
 - 21st century teachers
 - 21st century pedagogy





Future research and development

- Changing trends
- Getting to know our learners and their changing characteristics in the changing environment
- New support models for all stakeholders
- Further exploring pedagogical potentials of technological trends





Thank you for listening ©

Questions?

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