

# LEO CAFE AS A FORUM FOR EVALUATING AND DEVELOPING WEB-BASED TEACHING

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## LEO - Learning Excellence Online

### What is Leo Cafe?

- Leo Cafe is one of the tools we use in evaluating and developing quality. Leo Cafe meetings have been organised about once a month since 2006.
- Our strategic choice is to invest in the development of web-based teaching, taking into account student feedback and guidance needs.
- The one-hour Leo Cafe meetings are usually attended by half of our teaching staff. The activities are organised by the pedagogical head of the unit.

### What themes have been handled at Leo Cafe?

The content of Leo Cafe meetings are based on the activeness and interests of our personnel.

#### Teachers' pedagogical experiments and pilot projects

We describe our teaching experiments as well as share and exchange related experiences on, for example,

- the utilisation of blogs in teaching
- e-exam instructions and assignments
- social media (Facebook, Google Apps) in student guidance
- saving resources online for use in teaching.

We participate in the ICT pilots of the University of Jyväskylä IT Services and share related experiences; we also collect development ideas for IT Services on such topics as

- the adoption of a plagiarism detection system and related instructions for students
- the fluent technical realisation of e-exams (e.g. 100 students return their exams simultaneously).

We share existing experiential knowledge of good practices (e.g. with new teachers).

#### Processing of student feedback

Based on student feedback, the pedagogical head determines the development needs of web-based teaching for further actions (e.g. making instructions clearer and more consistent).

We share learning experiences of participation in training and conferences, writing on web-based teaching and following related research.

#### Staying up to date with developments in teaching technology

- familiarisation with the new tools of applications that are already used
- familiarisation with new software, applications, learning environments, hardware

### Leo Cafe as a forum for developing web-based teaching

Teachers' experiences and student feedback to ensure high-quality learning

- We collaboratively look for and find practical solutions that can be immediately utilised.
- We encourage teaching experiments and innovative teaching.
- We make competence and expertise visible and share them.
- The organisation ensures that every new teacher has the opportunity to implement web-based teaching.
- We actively present development needs that arise from the experiences of teachers and students to the IT Services.

### Student feedback as part of quality evaluation

In addition to university-level evaluation, we have an electronic student feedback system.

- Unit-specific student feedback. The feedback is requested after students have completed a study entity. The response rate is about 37%. The results are reported on the website once a year.
- Course-specific feedback collected by teachers.



### The Open University of Jyväskylä

- Provides open university education based on the curricula approved by the University of Jyväskylä's faculties. A special task within the University of Jyväskylä: pedagogical development of adult education.
- A multidisciplinary community providing education in various subjects – for example, education, special education, drama education, health sciences, writing, human resource management, social work, chemistry.
- 16,000 students annually from various parts of Finland and abroad. Courses are completed on a part-time basis, which allows studying while working.
- The largest provider of open university education in Finland.
- A pioneer and developer of adult education and web-based teaching; has received several regional quality awards for its e-learning.
- Has developed a holistic service and study concept based on electronic systems, including informing, advising and guidance services, enrolment, payment of course fees, recording of studies and credits.
- Leo Cafe has been selected as a good practice in the external audit of the University of Jyväskylä.

