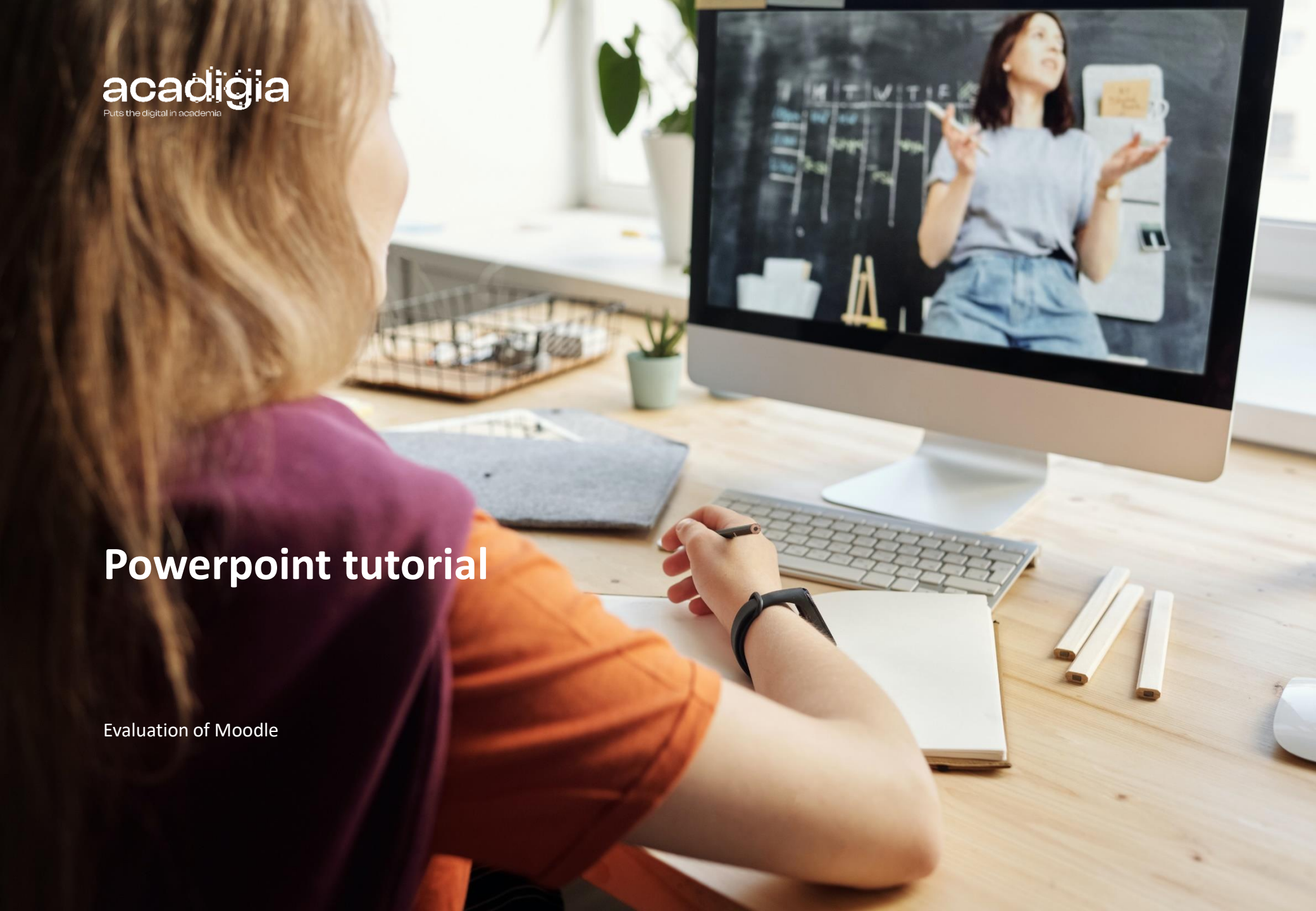

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Evaluation of Moodle

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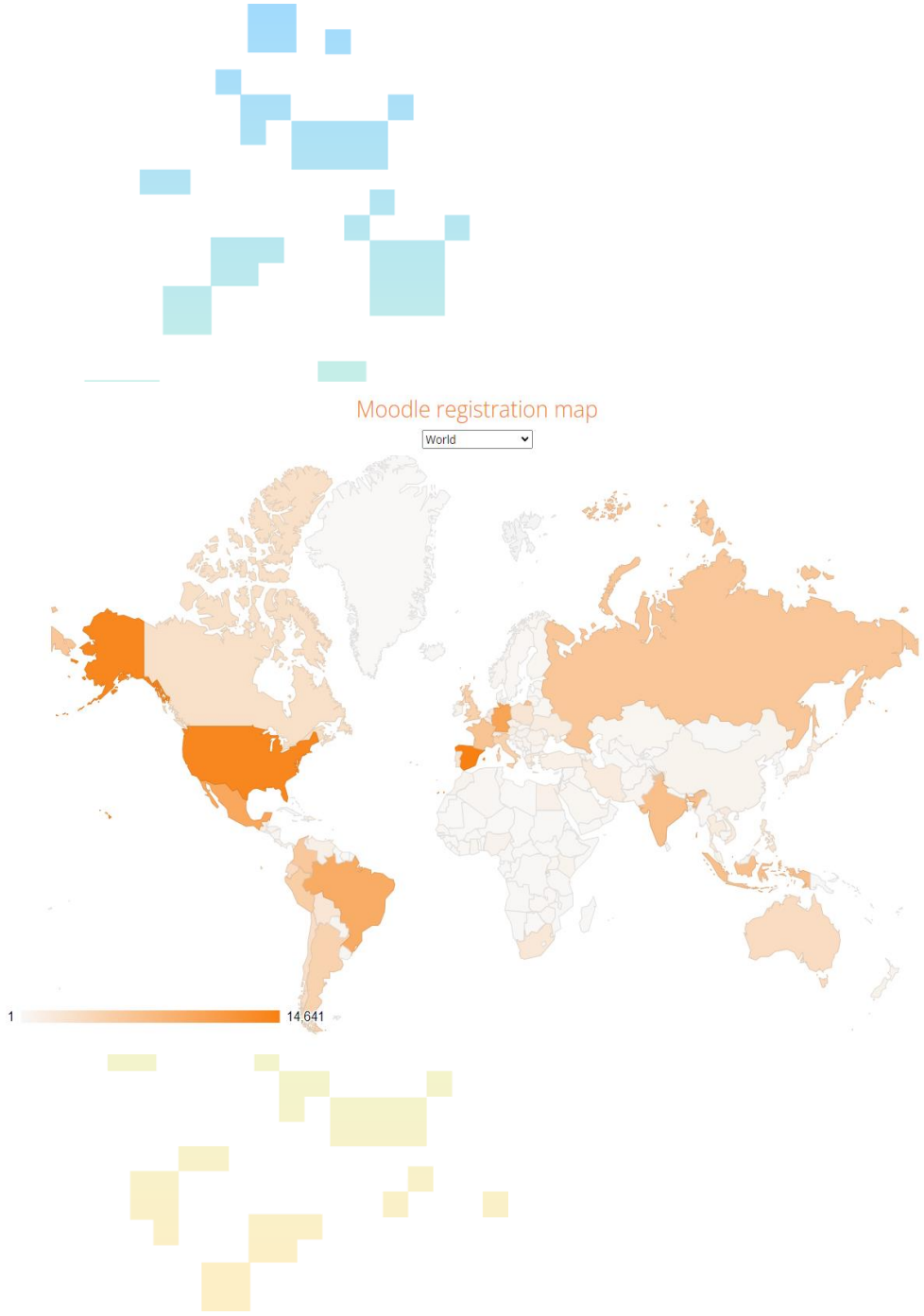
What is Moodle?

- **Moodle** is the most popular open-source Learning Management System. It provides the framework for conducting online teaching and learning
- First appearing in 2001, It is currently managed and developed by the Moodle HQ corporation
- With Moodle, teachers can create and organize course materials and activities, communicate with students, assess their activity and manage the whole pedagogical process.
- It is easily extendable through plugins either developed by the community, or custom designed and coded at the request of participants to the educational process



How we tested it?

Due to its popularity, Moodle has been widely used in many educational settings across the globe.

The Virtual Campus of the Politehnica University of Timisoara is one such platform. The authors' experience of more than 15 years working with Moodle, as well as the feedback from students who have successfully used it in full online or blended-learning settings have formed the basis for this report.

Functionalities supporting blended learning

1. Supporting Professional Engagement

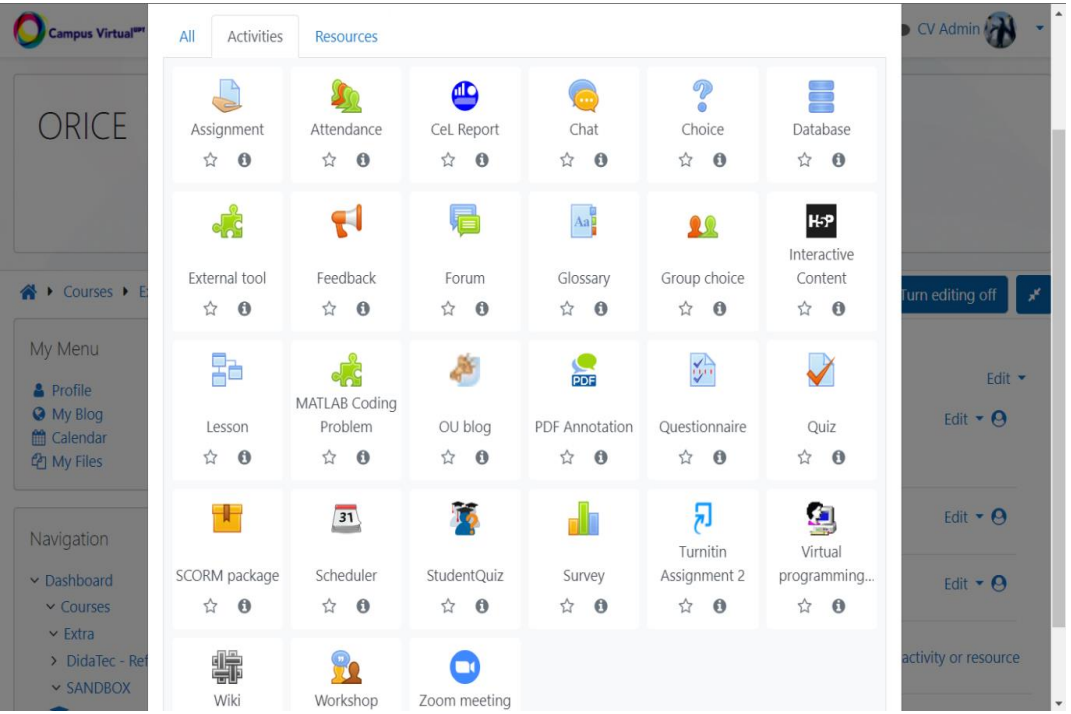
- It provides a framework for **hosting the content** that users need to access in order to complete their training or learning process
- Actively contributes to teaching / learning / training by **providing the tools** for effective **communication** between users.
- Offers a wide array of **evaluation, analysis and management tools**
- **Moodle Workplace** is a special version of the base LMS, aiming to be a customizable **platform for corporations**, for streamlining onboarding, workplace learning, automation of common processes and compliance management

2. Supporting Digital Resources

There are many types of course resources which can be used by educators to deliver learning content:

- Pages
- Files
- Folders
- Books
- URLs
- Labels
- IMS Content Packages

3. Supporting Teaching & Learning



Moodle offers many tools to facilitate interaction between users, and between learners and course materials:

- **Communication tools**:
  - Discussion forums
  - Chats
  - Direct Messaging
  - Audio-Video conferencing
- **Collaborative activities**:
  - Workshops
  - Wikis
  - Glossaries
  - Databases
  - H5P activities
- **Management tools**:
  - Attendance
  - Gradebook
  - Activity reports

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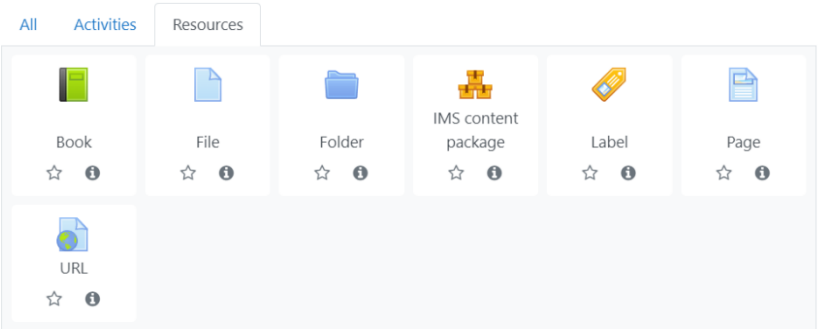
Main teaching and learning functionalities:



- **Course resources**: Teachers add course content in a large variety of formats.
- **Assignments**: Tutors configure learning activities, either collaboratively or individually.
- **Communication**: Users have many different communication channels at their disposal, either one-on-one, or one-to-many.
- **Announcements**: Teachers can give any updates about the course to the learners. Messages are automatically sent via email as well.
- **Evaluation**: Educators can evaluate the learners' progress and use many types of grading scales or systems.

4. Supporting Assessment

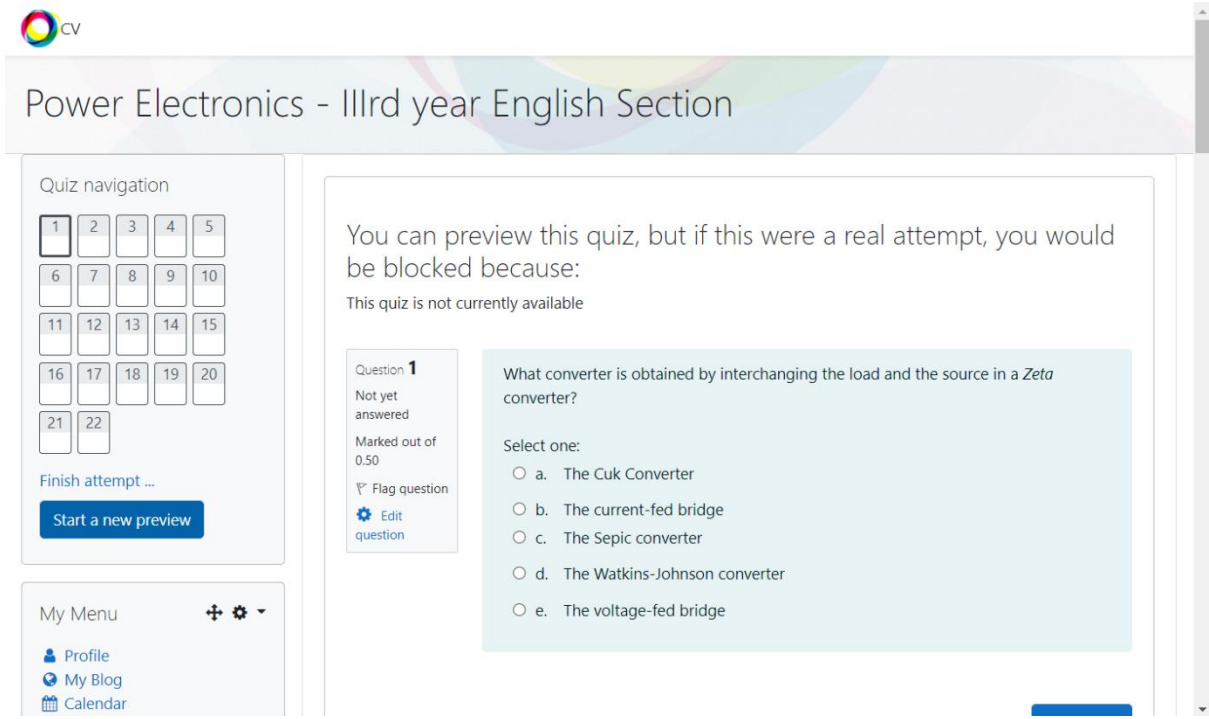
- Moodle facilitates assessment of students through **grade management, grading system, export of grades and rubrics.**
- There are self-grading activities (Quiz) or activities which require teacher monitoring
- Assessment of the users' activity inside a course can also be indicated by extensive reports that tutors can analyze and consider for grading
- Grading in Moodle is **private for every student**.

5. Supporting Learners Empowerment

- Moodle adheres to the **social constructivist** philosophy: learners actively contribute to the educational process.
- Students can customize their own learning experience: they learn at their own pace, in their own time, on their preferred devices**.**
- They can also provide **extensive feedback** to educators, in order to improve the overall quality of the learning experience**.**

6. Facilitating Learners' Digital Competence

- There are many ways of certifying a user's competence: numerical or letter-based grades, pass-fail scales, resource/activity completion statuses, course completion, competency frameworks.
- Moodle offers the possibility of awarding badges to users, as a certification of completing an activity or course, or as proof of having demonstrated a set of skills.
- Badges earned in Moodle can easily be used in social media, either directly or through the integration with Badgr



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