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Evaluation of 5-year Experience with E-learning Techniques at Charles University in Prague. Impact on Quality of Teaching and Students' Achievements

Abstract

Since 2004 implementation of e-learning has been systematically and continuously encouraged and supported at Charles University (CU). Open source system Moodle was chosen as an optimal Learning Management System for creation and management of e-learning courses. Evaluation of the five-year experience with e-learning shows that the continuous support of a suitable environment for the management of e-learning courses leads to the development of spontaneous implementation of this approach into the teaching process. A positive impact of e-learning on teaching outcomes was demonstrated by a course focused on medical informatics.

Key words : *e-learning, Moodle, Learning Management System, medical informatics, quality of teaching, distance learning, blended learning, long term trends.*

Introduction

E-learning is also called education through the Internet, on-line learning, computer-controlled teaching (Ruiz et al., 2006). Two major forms have evolved so far: distance learning with direct connection with a tutor and learning supported by instructions in the computer (Ruiz, 2006). The Internet enables the use of multimedia applications, texts, graphics, audio, video, so that a complex presentation of a particular topic is provided, sometimes with direct input of a tutor (Masic, 2009).