



Training Platform

Deliverable D4.2

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1 Introduction

The byDefault project pursues two strategic goals:

- I. To raise data protection and privacy awareness among the critical social group of children.
- II. To provide Data Protection Officers (DPOs) and privacy professionals with continuous support in their activities, beyond a basic level, aiming towards specialized guidance on selected key sectors.

To this end, byDefault will focus on the following activities and deliver the corresponding results:

1. Development of a comprehensive education program about privacy, targeting children and especially using electronic services. Based on this program, byDefault aims at training elementary and secondary school students, thereby enhancing their privacy awareness and data protection culture.
2. Provision of training and support to educators (teachers and professors), in order for them to be able to design and enact learning sessions according to the philosophy of the education program.
3. Performance of a set of pilot education activities to several elementary and secondary schools, to assess the effectiveness of the training program.
4. Development of an electronic collaboration space open to DPOs and privacy professionals, fostering the exchange of general and, especially, specialized knowledge, such as information that is sector-specific or concerns on the practical applicability of technologies.
5. Launch of the platform, creation of a critical mass of content and users (DPOs and privacy professionals), monitoring and assessment of its operation till the end of the project and beyond.
6. Maximization of byDefault impact, through dissemination, networking and sustainability of project results; byDefault aims at being a project of high impact in the Greek society, with a European dimension.

This work package, WP4, is linked to the strategic goal of raising data protection and privacy awareness among children. During this WP an online in-service teacher professional development program will be designed, deployed and evaluated. Thus, it aims at the following objectives:

- To set up a training strategy and methodology for teachers
- To prepare appropriate training material for teachers
- To develop and operate a teachers' training platform
- To provide training to several elementary and secondary school teachers

The WP4 deliverables will be:

- D4.1 – Training material and methodology
- D4.2 – Training platform
- D4.3 – Teachers' training activities

This deliverable for the Training Platform will highlight the role of a Learning Management System (LMS) in the online seminar on personal data protection.

More specifically, considering that in the digital age, personal data protection has emerged as an issue of paramount concern, since individuals and organizations grapple with the complexities of safeguarding such information, the educational initiative, taken by the ByDefault project, to train teachers and foster a deep understanding of personal data protection is evident. Furthermore, the online seminar on personal data protection will become a popular avenue for disseminating knowledge.

D4.2 — Training Platform

To effectively conduct and manage the seminar the use of a LMS, i.e. an e-learning platform, is essential. This document presents the rational of utilizing a LMS in this online seminar, delving into the users it supports and the functionalities it offers, in order to enhance learning experience.

The URL of the platform <https://eduspace.sch.gr/courses/EDUPRIV101/>

2 Characteristics of a Learning Management System

A Learning Management System (LMS) is a web-based technology platform that is used to plan, implement, and assess a specific learning process. It is designed to make learning more efficient, manage users, and organize learning content. In the ByDefault project the LMS serves as a centralized platform for hosting, organizing, and updating seminar content related to personal data protection. This ensures consistency in learning content, dissemination and easy access to learning resources for all participants as described in the literature. The study by Elmunsyah et al. (2022) explored the implications of Learning Management System on education quality in the new normal era. The study found that the use of LMS applications had advantages, such as improving the quality of education, but also had disadvantages, such as technical issues and lack of interaction. Veluvali & Suriseti, J. (2022) argued that Learning Management Systems are game changers for traditional teaching and learning at adult and higher education institutions. The author highlighted the benefits of LMS, such as flexibility, accessibility, and personalized learning, and how they can improve the quality of education.

Overall, studies suggest that modern Learning Management Systems can have a positive impact on education quality. They can provide flexibility, accessibility, and personalized learning, and improve the learning experience for both teachers and students.

The primary users of the LMS are the *seminar participants*. These individuals enrol in the course to acquire knowledge and skills. The LMS provides them with a structured learning environment. Participants can access course materials and various digital learning resources, conduct online quizzes, attend webinars, and interact with instructors and peers.

Moreover, *Instructors and course creators* are pivotal in designing, delivering, and assessing the content. They use the LMS to upload and organise the course material and digital learning resources such as lectures, readings, quizzes and assignments, interact with participants, offer live/synchronous training sessions, initiate discussions, provide announcements, as well as manage user data and enrolments and capture participants' attendance.

2.1 LMS Main Specifications

The LMS will be a digital web-based platform with an easy to use, friendly and attractive user interface that will act as a single gateway for offering teachers professional development in the ByDefault project.

The key specifications of the platform are the following:

- The interface of the platform will be in Greek with multilingual capability (at least in English).
- It will feature a modular and open architecture to allow improvement of its functionalities through the addition, extension, replacement and upgrading of various modules.
- It will be accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- It will be accessible through all popular web browsers.
- It contains detailed instructions of use and manuals of the training platform both for instructors and students (<https://eduspace.sch.gr/info/manual.php>)
- Each instructor will have at his/her disposal tools to enhance the learning process, such as:
 - Quiz
 - Discussion forum
 - Chat
 - Calendar
 - Tools for uploading, structuring in units, and offering learning material such as videos, presentations, etc,
 - Tools for extracting reports on the educational use of the platform.

- Videoconferencing tools, allowing instructors and students to be together in real time, but from different locations each, supporting also Breakout sessions that allow students to engage with others in smaller groups, discussing practical scenarios and use cases.
- Integration with other tools and systems, such as email and on line forms for gathering feedback from students' learning experience.

Having in mind these specifications, the consortium decided to use **Open eClass** as the LMS for the teacher training provision. Open eClass is an open-source LMS, widely used for online education. It provides tools for creating and managing online courses, delivering educational content, and facilitating interactions between instructors and students. Open eClass has been developed and maintained by the Greek Research and Technology Network (GRNET). GRNET is a governmental organization in Greece responsible for providing advanced network and cloud services to the Greek research and academic community. Open eClass is widely used in Greece, being popular among educational institutions, including K-12 education, and often employed by the Greek Ministry of Education.

2.1.1 Open eClass LMS

Open eClass provides a complete Course Management System to enhance and support educational activity for both teachers and students (<https://www.openeclass.org/en/platform/>). Some of its key characteristics follow:

- Cross-browser compatibility: Open eClass is accessible via a web browser and runs on the latest versions of all popular browsers.
- Responsive user interface: The platform contains a modern and responsive user interface that adapts to different hardware devices, from conventional desktops and laptops to tablets and smartphones.
- eLearning standards compliance: The Open eClass platform is compliant with international standards (SCORM, IMSCP) ensuring the reusability, accessibility, and durability of educational materials and the interoperability between learning management systems.
- Course access: Learners can easily access the courses they are enrolled in, including viewing course content, submitting assignments, and participating in discussions.
- Feedback: Learners can receive feedback on their work, such as through graded assignments and assessments, and through comments and discussions.
- Multimedia: Learners can access and interact with a variety of multimedia content, such as videos, images, and audio.
- Mobile compatibility: Learners can access the LMS from a mobile device, such as a smartphone or tablet.
- Course creation and management: Instructors can easily create, organize, and manage their courses, including adding and editing content, creating assignments and assessments, and managing student enrolment.
- Integration: Instructors can integrate the LMS with other tools and systems, such as email.
- Drip content: The platform allows for drip content, which is used to release sections, chapters, and classes by a specific date or days after enrolment.

Overall, Open eClass is a mature and customizable e-learning platform that offers a range of features to support both teachers and students in their educational activities.

3 Screenshots from the “Personal Data Protection” Course Environment

As already mentioned, the training platform for the Personal Data Protection course, organised by the ByDefault project, can be accessed through the URL: <https://eduspace.sch.gr/courses/EDUPRIV101/>

The screenshots included in this section intend to provide an overview of the online course environment within Open eClass. It should be noted, however, that the content of the course that will be offered to the trainees will be in Greek. The screenshots that follow have been translated in English in order to ensure a better understanding to the reader of the current document.

Figure 1 shows the main course page that a learner sees when entering the course. The content is structured in units. There are several available tools for quick access, e.g. to all available course documents or the teleconferencing tools, and so on.

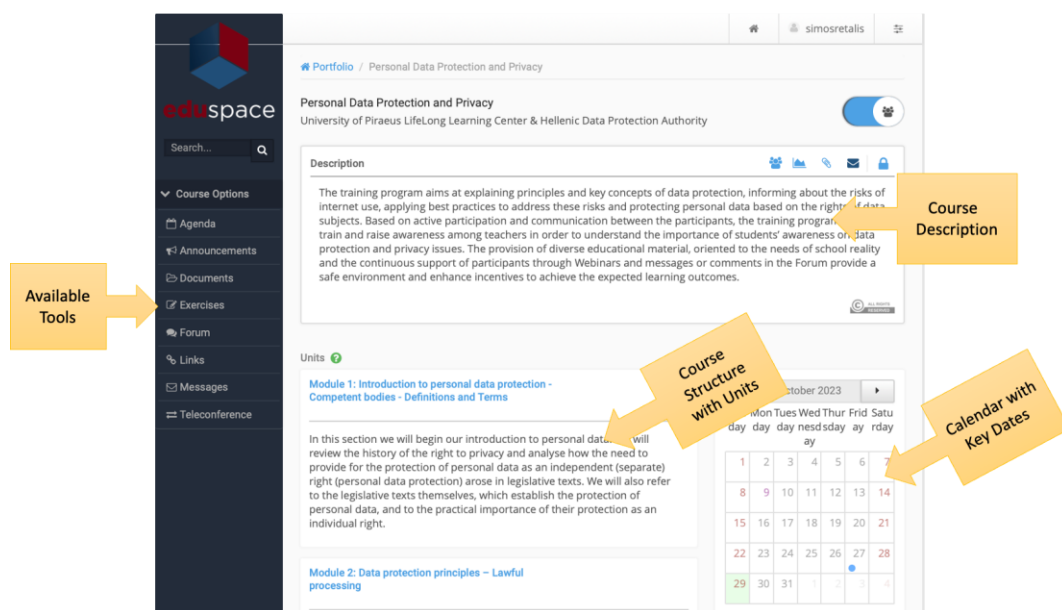


Figure 1: The Course’s Main Page

Figure 2 below presents how the learning resources and tools are structured per unit. Each unit has a short description to help learners get a quick understanding of its learning objectives. The learner can quickly navigate to the other units – either in a linear form or by going to a specific one.

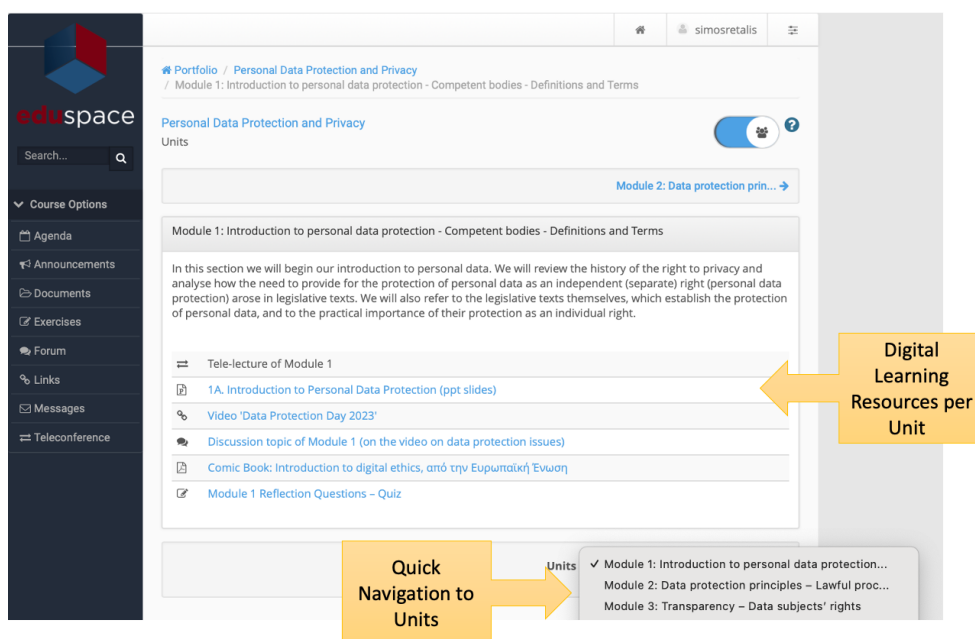


Figure 2: Screenshot of how Learning Resources are Presented in the Course Unit

When a learner clicks on a specific learning resource, he/she can see that resource online at a pop-up window, as depicted in Figure 3. She/he can download or print the resource depending on the resource format. In the case of Figure 3, a comic book in the form of a pdf file has been opened.

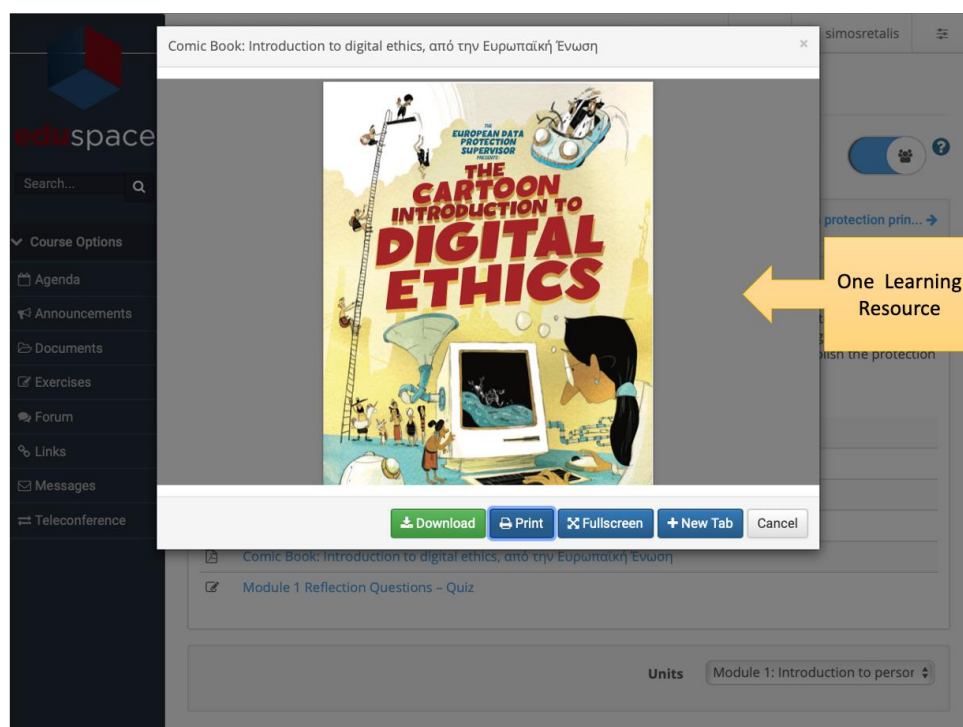


Figure 3: Pop up Window for a Specific Learning Resource in a Course Unit

D4.2 — Training Platform

Figure 4 and Figure 5 below present what the learner sees when accessing and answering an online quiz respectively.

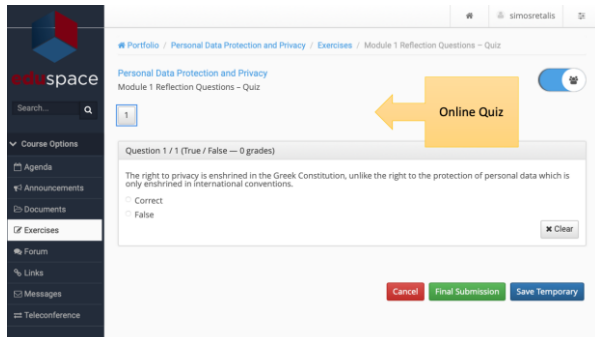


Figure 4: Screenshot of an Online Quiz

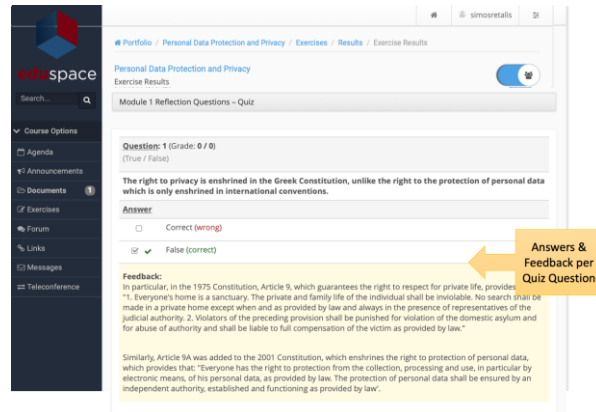


Figure 5: Screenshot of the Results of an Online Quiz

An instructor has several tools for course administration such as enrolling users, statistics on course usage, etc. as shown in the Figure 6 below.

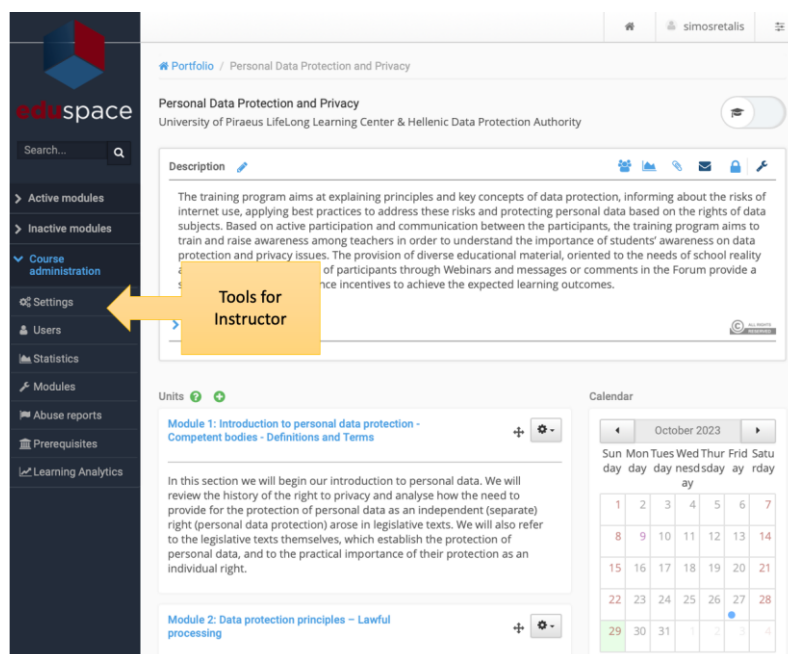


Figure 6: Screenshot of the Various Tools that an Instructor has for Course Administration

Finally, as shown in Figure 7, the course creator has access to various tools that help him/her to design and enact the course according to the teaching and learning needs.

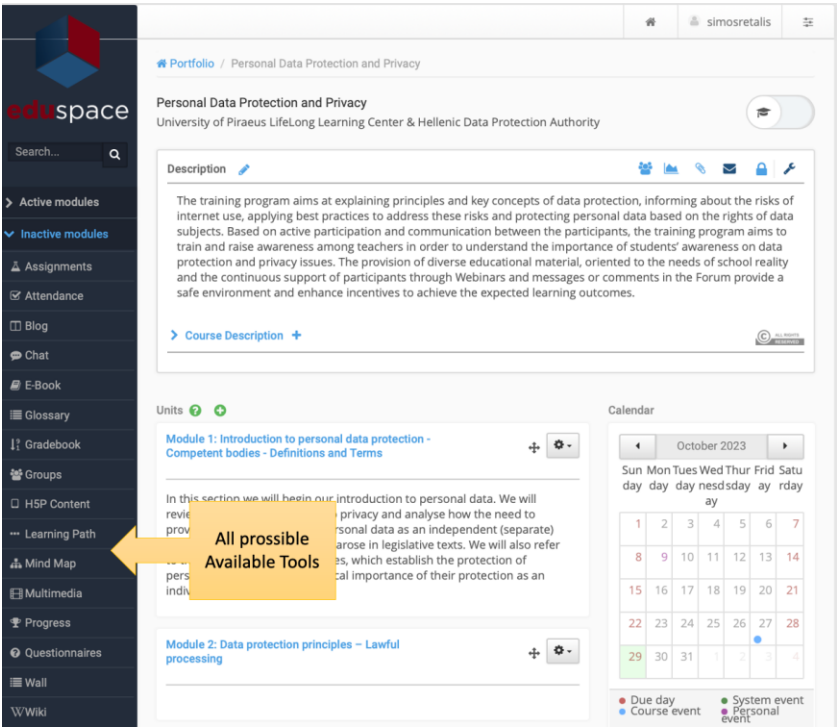


Figure 7: Course Creation Tools

4 Conclusions

Overall, the adoption of the Open eClass platform for our online seminar on Personal Data Protection has proven to be a strategic choice. Its usability and user-friendly interface will greatly enhance the learning experience for our target audience of school teachers. The availability of a diverse range of tools within the platform has enabled us to create a highly flexible online learning environment. Notably, Open eClass offers features for content delivery, interactive discussions, assessments, and more, making it a comprehensive solution for our educational needs.

Furthermore, the added value of this platform cannot be overstated. The ability to customize course materials, organize engaging webinars, and monitor participants' progress has streamlined our teaching process and allowed us to provide tailored support to our participants. Open eClass's robust security features, particularly important for a seminar on Personal Data Protection, have instilled confidence in both instructors and attendees, ensuring the privacy and security of the shared information.

In summary, Open eClass is a reliable, user-centric, and feature-rich platform, perfectly aligned with the teacher training seminar's objectives. We are confident that this platform will continue to be an invaluable asset in our mission to promote data protection awareness and education.

5 References

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