

Transcript for DRGC Training Video #3

Hi, my name is Jonathan Dykes and I'm director of a company called Molehill Holdings, which is based in Barcelona, Spain. We are one of the partners of the Erasmus project, Developing Responsible Global Citizens. Now in this video what I'm going to try and do is explain how the software that we've developed works. The good news is that it's all very simple.

The first thing you'll need to do is visit the project website, which is what we see on the screen. The address is drgc-project.eu And if this is the first time you visited the site, the first thing you need to do is register. And you do this by clicking on the login link on the top menu and then on the register button. And as you can see here, you'll just need to put in a username, an email address, your school's name, and also tell us in which country your school operates. Once you've done that, you just click the submit button and that's it.

The next time you visit the site and click the login button, you'll see that your username and password will appear, which means you just have to click on the login button below those and you'll be taken into the site. And you'll see from the top menu here, there are different options. DRGC is the home page, we have a news and blog page, then there's the syllabus builder, a list of the syllabi that you have produced so far and a list of syllabi that other people have produced.

We're going to start by looking at the syllabus builder itself.

The syllabus builder is the clever tool that our software guys have built to help you design your own mini courses. So let's click on the tab and take a look.

So here we are on the syllabus builder page and the first thing we have to do is put in some general information about the course that we want to design. So that includes selecting the level of our students from this drop-down list. Let's select B2 for example. And then also defining the number of lessons that are going to make up our course. It could be any number you want, but let's put in for example six. And then also the number of hours that are going to be included, because a lesson could be defined as being 45 minutes, an hour, two hours, four hours, whatever. But in this case let's decide that they're going to be nine hours in total in this mini course, which means obviously every lesson is going to be one and a half hours long.

Then we write a title for our syllabus. In this case I previously wrote the title as Health and the Community. And then we also have to put in an objective, an overall objective of our course. This is just to inform other people who might be interested in working with it. So the objective in this case I've written is to encourage students to reflect on mental and physical health issues in their communities. You can put anything you like.

Then we can decide on a start date if we want to. It's not obligatory, it's an optional feature. But yeah, let's put that this course is going to start on Saturday 25th of May for example, and that it's going to run every Saturday from, starting at 10 o'clock for example. It's entirely optional.

Then you can also decide whether you want to make your syllabus available to everyone who has access to the site, or you want to keep it private. So just by clicking yes you make it available on the public syllabi list. And then another option is you can put in any additional information which people may find useful. In this case I've previously added that internet access is going to be a requirement, which is not too much of a problem for most of our students these days.

And then by default the author of the course is taken from your username.

So that's the general information of our course established. The next step is to decide what we want to achieve in our lessons, and we do that by scrolling down the page. And as you can see lesson one appears on the list as the default option. What we have to do here is decide on the learning outcomes that we want to achieve in this lesson, both in terms of the CEFR outcomes and also in terms of the DRGC outcomes.

Let's start with CEFR. So what we have to think about is what skills we want students to practise in this lesson and we can choose those by clicking on the options from the list. So let's say we want to get our students to do some speaking, maybe a little bit of reading and some listening as well. Once we've selected those skills then we click on this drop-down list and we'll see that a whole range of can-do statements appear which are relevant to the level that we have selected for our course.

So we can select any number of these can-do statements that we want. Let's for example decide that we're going to ask our students to express opinions which they should be able to do with reasonable fluency and accuracy at this level according to CEFR. So we'll choose that. And we can add more CEFR outcomes by clicking on this button. So, for example we'll say that we also want them to understand a simple description of a problem or issue, which may be from a text that we have found. And finally, we'll add one more objective to this first lesson, which will be to understand the main points of a radio or television programme. And we can add as many of these CEFR outcomes as we want or we can eliminate them, the ones we've chosen, by clicking on the red cross here. But we'll put that one back in because that's relevant to the outcomes that we have previously selected.

Okay so having decided on the CEFR outcomes that we would like to achieve in this first lesson, we now move across to the DRGC outcomes. And first we do here is select which topics we would like to include in this first lesson from this list. And as our mini course is focussing on community and health issues the logical thing would be to choose those two items, but we can choose as many as we like.

Then we decide what specific outcomes we would like to include in this first lesson by selecting them from another drop-down list. In this case we see can-do statements which are relevant to the topics we've suggested, community and health, at the level we've suggested, which is B2, and which have some relevance to the skills that we want to focus on in this first lesson, as identified in the CEFR outcomes.

So let's choose a couple of these items. We may decide for example we want to get our students to do some discussion about health concerns in communities, global and local. And

we can add as many of these outcomes as we want. Let's for example suggest we would like also to get them to listen to a discussion of different healthcare systems around the world.

And yeah, once we've selected those items, we can then move on to the final section of the lesson information. And this is to add any resources and techniques which we have come up with. So, for example, here's a website which we think might be relevant to this to this lesson with information about how social media affects teens' mental health. And we can also include teacher's notes if we want to. So, for example about how the lesson may be staged. But these items at the bottom of this lesson are entirely optional. It's up to the course designer to include information here or not.

But what we should stress is that perhaps this is not aimed to be a lesson plan. It's simply deciding on learning outcomes for the first lesson in our course.

Once we're happy with this first lesson we then click add lesson and we go through exactly the same procedure for subsequent lessons. So, identifying both CEFR outcomes and DRGC outcomes. And we do that until we've gone through the entire number of lessons in our mini course. And then we can save our syllabus and come back and edit it if we want to.

Once we've clicked on the save my syllabus button the project that we've been working on will automatically appear in the list of my syllabi on this page. So here we can see the health and the community course that we have just started work on.

From this page we can view what we've achieved so far by clicking on this button. And that will give us the description of the course, the general information and also an outline of the first lesson.

Then also we can edit what we've done so far by clicking on the icon here. And that will take us into the syllabus that we have been working on. And so here yeah, we can edit anything or add these additional lessons that are still missing.

From the 'My syllabi' page we can also delete anything we want to get rid of. And if we have a long list of syllabi that we've created we can also order these in terms of the dates modified and the level of the students that we're aiming to work with.

Finally let's just have a quick look at the public syllabi page of the website which is what you have on the screen. And this as the name suggests is simply a list of all of the syllabi that have been developed by different people around the world, who have generously decided that they're going to make their work available to everybody. The list is currently organised by date in which syllabus has been modified, but it can also be organised by level so teachers can choose from any of these levels and find the material which is most relevant to their students.

So we'll have a quick look at one of the syllabi which have been put on this list. This one is designed for adults. The title is sustainable development in 21st century. It's designed for students at C1 level, consists of three lessons and has six hours of material suggested in total.

Here below we can see the lessons and the CEFR skills and outcomes that are proposed, as well as the Chedi topics and DRGC outcomes. And then this particular teacher whose name is Paola has also included some suggestions for resources and techniques and some teachers notes to go with it. So that's all very useful.

And you may also notice there's also some reference to suggested 21st century skills, in that in addition to teaching language the thinking is that we can also get students to think in terms of developing other skills such as critical thinking, creativity, communication and so on.

Okay well that's it in terms of our explanation of how the software works as you can see it's all very simple. I hope you found the video useful.

One thing that we haven't yet pointed out is that everything that you've seen is entirely free. There are no charges involved because this is an Erasmus funded project. So yeah, why not give it a go yourselves?

If you have any problems let us know. There are contact details on our website, and we'd also like to hear your feedback on the syllabus builder, and you can do that by filling in a simple form which you'll find from this link.

So yeah, good luck, we hope you enjoy working with our software and that your students benefit from the courses you've developed.

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