

EdTech: TrainTool Evaluation

Round 2

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We acknowledge the valuable contributions and feedback of Prof. dr. Perry den Brok and Dr. Harm Biemans on this report.

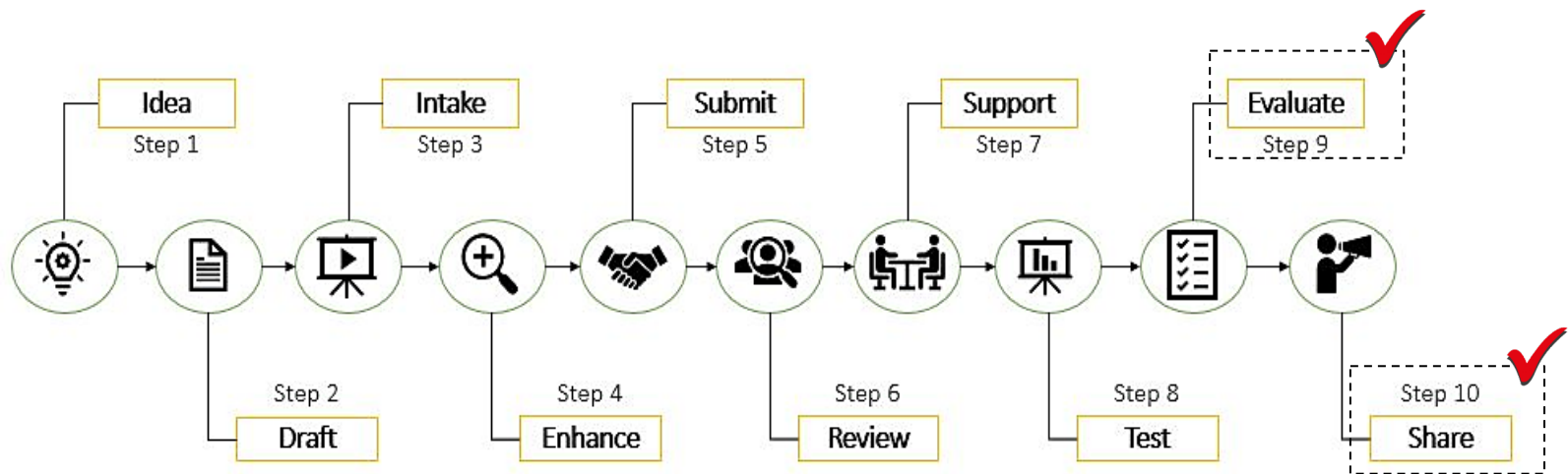


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EdTech community

- Supporting teachers who experiment with new EdTech tools in education
- Enhancing quality of education at WUR with EdTech tools
- EdTech evaluation: Step 9 (evaluate) and Step 10 (share)
- For more information: <https://www.wur.nl/en/Education-Programmes/Community-for-Education-Innovation-with-EdTech.htm>





Overview of TrainTool

- An online video training tool that focuses on the practice of communication skills
- Tool this aims to actively train and test learners' communication and presentation skills
- Some functionalities:
 - Autocue
 - Speech recognition
 - Self/peer/coach feedback and assessment
- Website: <https://www.faculty.nl/en/traintool-app>
- Youtube video:
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mRLkAWW0Yi4&t=9s>



Method

Courses	Period	Tool mandatory?	Sample	Data collection
Course A	P2 & 5, 2021-22	Partly mandatory	51 in course 4 in survey, 1 teacher	Survey Interview
Course B	P1 & 3, 2021-22	Mandatory	62 in course, 6 in survey, 1 teacher	Survey Interview
Course C	P1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6, 2021-22	Mandatory (also exam)	50 per period, 4 in survey, 2 teachers	Survey Interview
Course D	P1, 2, 3 & 5, 2021-22	Optional use	250 in year, 5 in survey, 2 teachers	Survey Interview
Course E	P1, 2, 3, 4 & 5, 2021-22	Mandatory	120 in year, 2 in survey, 1 teacher	Survey Interview



Key results: teachers



Strengths & weaknesses

Teachers

Reported strengths	Reported weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ease of use• Good support• Safe learning environment• Diversity of actors• Learning by doing• Practical• Support service• Learning at your own pace• Enhancing self-awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lack of interaction• Unnatural videos• Difficult to add videos• Difficult for complex skills• Expensive• Lack of monitoring options for teacher• Student preference for F2F interaction• Difficult to mix with F2F education• Poor integration with Brightspace



Support of course goals

Teachers

Course	Goal	Successful?
Course A	Extra training facility	Partly (not for all students)
Course B	Training subskills, enhancing self-awareness	Successful
Course C	Train basic skills, creating room for in-depth discussion	Successful
Course D	Flip the classroom/new setup of course	Successful
Course E	Improve role play skills	Success unclear

Quote: *“TrainTool supports my course nicely. It is an add on. In fact, TrainTool is not needed to achieve my learning outcomes, but it supports them nicely.”*



Workload & ease of use

Teachers

Course	Workload	Ease of use
Course A	No decrease	Easy
Course B	No decrease	Easy
Course C	No decrease	Easy
Course D	No decrease	Easy
Course E	No decrease	Easy

Quote: *“Since it is a new addition to class, it adds workload. Also, preparation and integrating this tool in the course adds extra workload. Therefore, I would not say TrainTool decreases workload.”*

Quote: *“TrainTool is easy to use. It is simple and intuitive, and I believe TrainTool can speak for itself. I did not find it difficult to use and I have not heard any complaints from students’ side.”*



As assessment tool

Teachers

Course	Used as assessment tool	Potential as assessment tool?
Course A	No	As a part of assessment
Course B	No	Yes
Course C	No	Yes
Course D	No	Yes
Course E	No	Yes

Quote: *“We did not use TrainTool for assessing student. However, I think it can be used for assessment but not fully assessment. Only as a part of assessment or complete final assignment.”*

Quote: *“It can be used as an assessment tool, but I am not a fan. First, because it is not a good fit for my course. Second, exam results are not archived in the WUR archives and hence I think cannot be an official examination method.”*



Support services

Teachers

Course	Support service?
Course A	Good
Course B	Good
Course C	Not bad
Course D	Good
Course E	Could be better

Quote: *“In my opinion, they have a great support service. Fast response to questions and large willingness to be of help shown by our contact person(s).”*

Quote: *“They seemed willing to help, but not everyone I spoke to had the technical knowledge to answer my questions or solve my problems. It felt often I was still working with a pilot version. Some of my problems are still not solved after months of pointing them out.”*



Satisfaction

Teachers

Course	Satisfaction?	Reasons for satisfaction
Course A	Satisfied	Accessible, clear materials, and user friendly
Course B	satisfied	Professional look, responsive helpdesk, good to practice subskills
Course C	Satisfied	Personal learning, learning by doing
Course D	satisfied	Self-practice, preparation for class
Course E	Satisfied	Opportunities to practice

Quote: *“I think TrainTool was really useful because it gives students an opportunity to practice.”*

Quote: *“TrainTool is an interesting alternative learning method for students that prefer learning by doing and looking back at their own performance.”*



Suggestions for improvements

Teachers

Course	Suggestions
Course A	More interaction possibilities
Course B	Reasonable cost, more accessibility to teachers to add their own materials
Course C	Reasonable cost, improving integration with Brightspace
Course D	-
Course E	-

Quote: *“I only suggest to make it cheaper and be more open to adding our own material (not making use of their actors but our own).”*

Quote: *“Solve the poor integration with Brightspace grading. (results are only pushed with the LTI link when actual results are graded in TrainTool. This makes the grading formulas in Brightspace invalid till that point.”*



Future use & recommendation

Teachers

Course	Use in the future	Recommendation for other courses
Course A	Yes	Yes
Course B	Yes	Yes
Course C	Yes	Yes
Course D	Yes	Yes
Course E	Yes	N/A

Quote: *“If WUR decides to continue working with the tool, we will start thinking about inclusion of some TrainTool exercises in the final assignment.”*

Quote: *“If it is a course that is skill-oriented and that has a lot of subskills one can practice, yes I would definitely recommend TrainTool.”*



Key results: students



Support of learning goals

Students

Course	Learning goal	Successful?	Key tool function
Course A	Self-feedback	Successful	Invite for feedback
Course B	Self-review and practice	Successful	Recoding video
Course C	Basic exercise, preparation, develop a compromise attitude	Successful	Invite for feedback, Recoding video
Course D	Self-practice, communication skills	Successful	Recoding video
Course E	Structure communication and conversation	Successful	Invite for feedback, Recording video

Quote: *“I used TrainTool to record myself and ask feedback and for this reason it was helpful.”*

Quote: *“This tool was useful because it provides suggestions on how to structure different conversations in intercultural communication.”*



Workload & ease of use

Students

Course	Workload	Ease of use
Course A	No decrease	Easy
Course B	No decrease	Easy
Course C	No decrease	Easy
Course D	No decrease	Easy
Course E	No decrease	Easy

Quote: *“TrainTool is easy to use because it has a clear lay-out, it is simple, user-friendly, and intuitive.”*

Quote: *“TrainTool is very straightforward in its use.”*



Satisfaction

Students

Course	Satisfaction?	Reasons for satisfaction/dissatisfaction
Course A	Neutral/dissatisfied	Easy to use but awkward feelings to talk to computer
Course B	Neutral/dissatisfied	Useful to get insights but not much added value, no live interaction
Course C	Satisfied	Nice addition, easy to use, skill training
Course D	Satisfied	Simulations of real events, self-practice
Course E	Satisfied	Practice mini skills, self-test

Quote: *“For me, it felt a bit strange to talk to your computer. Not really useful and felt awkward working with this tool.”*

Quote: *“In general, It is a nice tool to do some negotiation exercises. The clips in general are good. You have to talk back without a long time to think how to react, which is useful.”*



Suggestions for improvements

Students

Course	Suggestions
Course A	Better incorporation with course
Course B	Video instruction, different answer types, interaction simulations
Course C	More dialogical - more specified feedback
Course D	Peer/teacher feedback
Course E	N/A

Quote: *“Incorporate this tool more. Maybe a little bit more assignments or in depth. Maybe some more relevant situations. In addition, More dialogical, more specified responses based on input”*

Quote: *“Maybe giving different answer types that can steer the follow up conversation clips like in a visual novel how choices impact the story. Also, maybe no fixed answers of the actors in the assessments.”*



Future use & recommendation

Students

Course	Use in the future	Recommendation for other courses
Course A	Maybe/No	Maybe/No
Course B	Maybe	Maybe
Course C	Yes	Yes - for MOS modules
Course D	Yes	Yes - for practical courses
Course E	Yes	Yes - for skills courses

Quote: *“For me, I felt like that I have to do this to pass the course instead of learning and obtaining more skills by using it. Therefore, not willing to use it.”*

Quote: *“I will use TrainTool next time because I find it nice in order to practice what you learn. Also, I think it is a good way to educate myself and learn new skills.”*



Conclusions

- Teachers and students were satisfied with TrainTool (+)
- Teachers and students recommended using TrainTool (+)
- TrainTool was successful in achieving intended goals (+)
- Teachers were willing to use TrainTool (+)
- Students were partly willing to use TrainTool (+)
- TrainTool support service was good (+)
- TrainTool did not decrease teachers'/students' workload (-)
- TrainTool lacks interactive communication (-)



Comparing with 1st round evaluation

- In both rounds, teachers and students showed satisfaction with TrainTool
- In both rounds, teachers and students recommended using TrainTool
- In both rounds, teachers and students found TrainTool user friendly and easy to use
- In both rounds, teachers and students did not report a decrease in their workload due to use of TrainTool
- In both rounds, teachers and students indicated that TrainTool contributed to their learning goal



Comparing with 1st round evaluation - continued

- In both rounds, teachers and students reported a good support services from TrainTool
- While teachers in 1st round did not see TrainTool as an assessment tool, in 2nd round, teachers considered a potential for TrainTool as an assessment tool



Recommendations

- TrainTool works fine in online settings, however, this tool needs to provide guidelines for teachers how to set this tool in offline settings.
- TrainTool needs to be more interactive
- TrainTool should consider possible ways to decrease teachers' workload
- TrainTool should provide functions for performing complex skills
- TrainTool should give more access to teachers to create complex assignments with this tool



Thoughts/Questions?

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