



LTI Integration Metacampus– Moodle: Improving Application Processes for VECP Students

Unite! Digital Teaching and Learning
Success Story Report 6/2026

Title	LTI Integration Metacampus–Moodle: Improving Application Processes for VECP Students
Series	“Unite! Digital Teaching and Learning - Success Story Report” edited by Martin Ebner, Katharina Gasplmayr and Sandra Schön
Number/Year Project	06/2026 Unite! University Network for Innovation, Technology and Engineering; Project Call ERASMUS-EDU-2022-EUR-UNIV, Grant Agreement 101089731
Initiated by	Cm.2 Digital Campus (led by Martin Ebner, TU Graz), T2.7/T2.3 (led by Sandra Schön, TU Graz)
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Date Publication	August 12, 2026
Keywords	Technology, infrastructure, learning management system, e-learning, digital teaching, digital learning, Unite!
DOI	10.3217/29xhf-z6n13
Citation Suggestion	Breit, Robin & Hoppe, Christian (2026). LTI Integration Metacampus–Moodle: Improving Application Processes for VECP Students. In: nite! Digital Teaching and Learning – Success Story Report”, 6/2026, DOI: 10.3217/29xhf-z6n13
Co-Funding	 Co-funded by the European Union
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The series “Unite! Digital Teaching and Learning Success Story Report” was initiated by Cm.2 Digital Campus, led by TU Graz (Martin Ebner), as part of the idea to collect, spread and enhance the possibilities, usages and lessons learned of teaching and learning offers using the federated learning management system Metacampus from 11/2024 until the end of the current Erasmus+ funding period 10/2026. All reports are available under an open license and originally published in the TU Graz repository. Copyright holders are the authors.

Overview

Related Learning/Teaching Short Description	Language Courses The report describes how TU Darmstadt introduced an LTI integration between its Moodle system and the Unite! platform Metacampus, allowing exchange students to access TU Darmstadt's Moodle course content directly (e.g., for language placement tests) by simplifying the registration process.
When	Study Year 2026
What	German as a foreign language (CEFR B2): Debating and Discussing I Polish for Academic Purposes II – Oral Communication
Unite! IT Infrastructure Used	Metacampus
Other IT Infrastructure Used	TUDa Moodle
Technical feature highlighted	LTI connection between Metacampus and local LMS
Responsible Task/Project	UNITE! Subcommunity 4.3 & UNITE! Cm 2
Responsible Unite! Partner	TU Darmstadt
Involved Unite! Partner(s)	All Partners
Responsible Person(s)	Robin Breit (TUDa), Christian Hoppe (TUDa)
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Description

The Virtual Exchange Credit Programme (VECP) offers students from all Unite! partner universities the opportunity to participate in online courses at other Unite! universities. While the programme was used very intensively during the COVID-19 pandemic, it continues to be used in selected faculties – and particularly in the language and global competence offerings organised by Subcommunity 4.3 "Multilingualism & Multiculturalism".

Since April 2022, courses from nearly all Unite! partners have been collected and listed on a dedicated Metacampus page¹, as no other shared webspace was available at the time. Since 2024, the [Unite! Catalogue for Students](https://metacampus.unite-university.eu/course/info.php?id=68) is available for announcing courses to a broader audience.

Although the information and communication about courses was already centralised through the Metacampus page – and now through the Unite! Catalogue for Students – the registration process is organised locally by each institution. The advantage of the VECP offer, from the students' perspective, is that they are enrolled with a special VECP student status, which allows them to receive ECTS credits for the attended course.

For the registration process, however, this arrangement presents several challenges: the timeline for communicating the offer, the deadline for student applications, the enrolment process at the host institution, and the registration for the specific course all need to be coordinated. At TU Darmstadt, for example, this meant that students had to apply for VECP courses six to eight weeks before the regular application deadline for local TU Darmstadt students.

This led to two distinct but connected problems. First, students had to commit to a course before they knew their local course schedule. Second, for all non-beginner language courses at the Language Resource Centre at TU Darmstadt, students are required to take a placement test – and to access this test, they need to be enrolled in TU Darmstadt's Moodle, which in turn requires a TU Darmstadt account and therefore formal enrolment as a (VECP) student.

¹ <https://metacampus.unite-university.eu/course/info.php?id=68>

The LTI integration between TU Darmstadt's Moodle and Metacampus was introduced to address these challenges. By enabling students from other Unite! universities to access TU Darmstadt's Moodle courses directly via Metacampus, the integration allows students to complete the placement test before formally enrolling at TU Darmstadt. It also makes it possible for students to register at a later point in time, much closer to the local registration deadline. Overall, it reduces the number of administrative steps students need to complete before accessing course content – allowing them to focus on the learning rather than the logistics.

How the LTI Integration Works

The LTI integration connects TU Darmstadt's Moodle with Metacampus, enabling students from other Unite! partner universities to access selected TU Darmstadt course content without needing a TU Darmstadt account.

Setting up the integration involves the following steps:

Step 1 - Request permissions: Instructors at TU Darmstadt who wish to use the LTI integration must first request the necessary permissions from the central TU Darmstadt Moodle support team by email.

Step 2 - Select content in TU Darmstadt's Moodle: Once permissions have been granted, instructors can select the specific content, activities, or the entire course within their TU Darmstadt Moodle course that they wish to make accessible to students from other Unite! universities via the LTI interface.

Step 3 - Set up the LTI connection in Metacampus: Instructors then set up the LTI connection within a Metacampus course. If no suitable Metacampus course exists yet, one must be requested from the Metacampus support team. Within this Metacampus course, instructors link to the previously selected content from TU Darmstadt's Moodle.

Step 4 - Student access: Students from other Unite! partner universities log in to Metacampus using their home institution credentials and are automatically redirected to the relevant course in TU Darmstadt's Moodle. No TU Darmstadt account is required: the LTI interface automatically creates a corresponding user account in TU Darmstadt's Moodle, making the process seamless for students.

Advantages and Limitations

Without the LTI integration, students from other universities who wish to access TU Darmstadt's Moodle courses face a significant administrative hurdle: they either need to be enrolled as regular students at TU Darmstadt, or a guest account must be created for them.

The LTI integration removes this barrier entirely. Students log in to Metacampus using their own institutional accounts and are redirected to TU Darmstadt's Moodle without requiring a separate TU Darmstadt account. This simplifies access considerably and reduces the administrative workload on both sides.

For instructors, a key advantage is that they can continue to create and maintain their courses in TU Darmstadt's Moodle as usual, without needing to duplicate or separately maintain course content on Metacampus for visiting students.

The main limitation is the initial learning curve: instructors need to familiarise themselves with the setup process for the LTI interface. However, dedicated support is available to assist with this (see "Support and Training for Instructors" below).

Necessary Conditions for a Meaningful Application of LTI Integration

- **Support of administrative staff:** Manually registering students into courses at TUDa requires supportive administrative colleagues and sufficient communication beforehand. Exceptions for Unite! students must be planned in advance to ensure fair registration processes — and can, at present, only be made if courses are not already fully booked by other participants.
- **Support of local IT staff:** While the LTI integration requires only four to six straightforward steps to activate, it is possible that certain options are not yet visible or that specific user roles and permissions need to be configured. This is easily resolved if the Moodle and Metacampus support teams are involved in the process from the outset.
- **Communication to students:** Students need to login for Metacampus first and must know where and how to access the Moodle course via Metacampus.
- **A coordinating person:** At present, one colleague at the Language Resource Centre — who is also active in Unite! — coordinates the process. This person maintains an overview of both the administrative and technical steps and serves as the contact point between the Language Resource Centre, the International Office, and the Moodle/Metacampus IT team. While the overall process is straightforward in nature, it relies on one person holding and maintaining this overview. A fully decentralised approach is currently only realistic for offerings that do not involve ECTS credit points.

How We Used It

- We identified courses likely to have open seats for Unite! students and coordinated with the respective instructors on the administrative and technical process.
- We worked with the Language Resource Centre to establish an adapted registration process and deadline for Unite! students.
- We coordinated with the International Office on the new registration process and public registration deadline.
- We announced the courses in the Unite! Student Catalogue.
- We applied for Metacampus spaces for the relevant courses and for the placement test, and requested that the coordinating person be added as an author in both the Metacampus and Moodle courses.
- We activated and configured the LTI connection between Metacampus and TU Darmstadt's Moodle.
- Once students had registered, we sent them a step-by-step explanation of how to use the LTI function in Metacampus as a "gateway" to the local TU Darmstadt Moodle course.
- We confirmed with the instructors that students appeared correctly as participants in both Moodle and the course.
- We then enrolled the students as VECP students at TU Darmstadt and registered them manually in the relevant courses.
- From that point on, students are handled as regular (VECP) TU Darmstadt students for all exam-related and official registrations in the TUCaN course management system.

Support and Training for Instructors

To help instructors at TU Darmstadt set up the LTI integration successfully, the E-Learning Team at TU Darmstadt offers individual consultations, short training sessions, and step-by-step guidance documentation. Instructors who wish to use the LTI interface for their courses are welcome to contact the E-Learning Team as their first point of contact.

Lessons Learned and Recommendations

Lessons Learned

Starting from Scratch

The implementation of the LTI integration at TU Darmstadt represented entirely new territory: there was no prior experience with this use case, and no established processes to build on. This made thorough preparation and close coordination between all involved parties – instructors, administrative staff, and technical support – particularly important.

Test Before You Scale

Before rolling out the integration to a larger group, it proved valuable to test the full setup carefully and to begin with a small, manageable number of students. This allowed the team to identify and resolve any technical or organisational issues early, without affecting a large number of participants.

Recommendations

Support Instructors Throughout the Setup Process

Instructors should not be left to navigate the setup on their own. Providing clear guidance, hands-on training, and a reliable point of contact significantly reduces barriers to adoption and helps ensure a smooth experience for both instructors and students.

Start Small, Then Scale

For institutions considering a similar implementation, it is advisable to pilot the integration with a small cohort first. Once the process is well understood and all steps are running smoothly, it can be extended to a broader audience with confidence.

Challenges for the Future

Raising Awareness Among Instructors

All instructors who teach courses involving Unite! students should be made aware of the LTI integration and consider whether it could simplify the enrolment process for their course.

Continuity of the Coordinating Role

At present, one colleague at the Language Resource Centre coordinates the entire process. With an upcoming change in the team, it remains unclear whether – and by whom – this coordination role will be taken on in the future. Ensuring continuity in this role will be essential for the sustainable operation of the integration.

Interested in this?

If you have any questions about the series “Unite Digital Teaching and Learning – Success Story Report”, please contact sandra.schoen@tugraz.at

For questions about the Unite! Metacampus, please fill in the Digital Campus form (<https://agora.unite-university.eu/digital-campus-enquiries>) or contact the Metacampus team: metacampus@unite-university.eu

If you want to learn more about the Metacampus or other success stories, take a look at the course “How to use the Metacampus”, which is available to all Unite! members at the Metacampus: <https://metacampus.unite-university.eu/course/info.php?id=90>

Appendix: List of Abbreviations

Cm – Community (organizational unit in Unite!, directly connected to “work packages”), e.g. Cm2 stands for “Community 2 Digital Campus” (or “work package 2”).

LMS – Learning Management System

LTI – Learning Tools Interoperability

MOOC – Massive Open Online Course

TUDa – Technical University of Darmstadt

VECP – Virtual Exchange Credit Programme