

BATTLE OF CONCEPTS

by **Hester Jelgerhuis** (SURFnet)

SURF organised a [Battle of Concepts](#) in the spring of 2015 in an effort to challenge students and young professionals to submit creative answers to the following question: “How can we apply new or existing ICT applications more intelligently in order to personalise higher education?” A remarkably large percentage of the submissions revolved around concepts relating to freely accessible online education and the sharing of learning materials.

From the ambitious to the practical

For example, a large number of proposals addressed the need for an online education learning platform, offering students access to online courses from other Dutch research universities and universities of applied sciences. This concerns both subject-related courses and courses centred around skills or personal development. Such solutions would enable students to select courses offered by either their own institution or an external institution, and attend these at a time and location of their choosing. They would also allow students to make use of restricted or freely accessible web lectures, e-books, digital testing and other facilities. A large percentage of the submitted ideas revolved around supporting students in the process of learning from and with each other. Many proposals also described a personalised learning environment that can be shaped by individual students to reflect their preferences and needs. Finally, participants also submitted ideas for smart tools and apps that facilitate the studying process, varying from scheduling apps to apps that link the user to fellow students on the basis of their interests or questions (e-matching).

The best concepts

A jury including representatives of the ISO and LSVb student unions selected the ten best concepts from a total of 45 submitted proposals. In an effort to inspire as many people as possible, SURF has [published](#) all proposals (on the basis of CCO-licensing) and the jury report. The box on page 43 features various proposals relating to online education and the sharing of learning materials.



More information:

- http://www.battleofconcepts.nl/battles/SURF/SURFnet_31-05-2015
- <https://www.surf.nl/kennis-en-innovatie/innovatieprojecten/startdatum-2015/proeftuin-innovatieve-ict-toepassingen/battle-of-concepts/index.html>

SUBMITTED PROPOSALS FROM THE BATTLE OF CONCEPTS THAT RELATE TO ONLINE EDUCATION AND SHARING TEACHING MATERIALS

SOL – SURF Online Learning Environment (1st prize)

This concept describes a thought-provoking vision of the future, in which students are able to follow courses at all Dutch research universities and universities of applied sciences by means of an online learning environment. The new system would allow them to compose their own curricula from a supra-institutional range of online education. They would then receive a certificate featuring the relevant institution's quality mark for each successfully completed course.

Blink (2nd prize)

The Blink application enables students to seek and find assistance and ask each other questions (both online and offline).

Bijlesplein (top ten)

This digital tutoring platform offers students learning materials on specific skills or subjects in which they wish to be 'tutored' and the opportunity to get feedback.

Uni360 (top ten)

Uni360 offers students online lectures, interactive exercises, tests, assignments, information sources and a tutoring network, enabling them to study 'any place, any time, any way'.

Online Study Bank

The online study bank allows students, lecturers and staff to share learning materials, news and assignments, while 'subscribing' to various subjects of choice.

Online learning, offline support

A focus on web lectures, self-study questions and digital testing allows for face-to-face education, evaluation and tailored supervision.

Get feedback

This online platform is aimed at Dutch higher education students, offering insight into the current level and any aspects requiring further attention through targeted feedback.

ClassesGlasses

Students can attend lectures at any time of their choosing thanks to the use of Oculus virtual reality glasses.

Flipped Classroom

This proposal describes an online platform enabling students to follow their own individual tracks with additional support available where necessary.

SPS – StudyPartnerSystem

The StudyPartnerSystem is an online network that serves to connect students from various degree programmes, enabling them to collaborate and exchange knowledge.