



ACT-COI An Asynchronous Community of Inquiry

Building a Community of Inquiry
in a fully asynchronous Master program
by fostering student activity and interactivity

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Context & Topic

- ▶ Online-based postgraduate master program
- ▶ Target group: Healthcare professionals from Germany, Austria, Switzerland
- ▶ Pedagogical focus: active learning, critical thinking, interaction
- ▶ Fully online, 100% asynchronous





Challenge & Objective

- ▶ How to build engaging group dynamics in the asynchronous online learning?
- ▶ How to keep motivation and activation in asynchronous online learning?
- ▶ How to build social presence in asynchronous online courses?
- ▶ How to support individual learning paths?

Our Instructional Design Approach

- Pedagogy: Socio-constructivism
- Framework: Community of Inquiry (CoI)
- Etivities: Structured, interactive online learning activities
- Role of instructor: Facilitator and coach
- Competence-based assessment, aligned with learning objectives
- Iterative piloting with evaluation and quality assurance



Tools & Technologies



- Moodle: Etivities & all materials
- Asynchronous communication: GoogleDocs, Kanban, xMind
- ScreenPal (video)
- Zoom (oral exams only)
- ChatGPT: bonus tasks

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Outcomes & Impact

Since 2017: 120+ students from 6+ countries
< 10% dropout rate, high satisfaction

Strong gains in professional, digital, and transversal competencies

Students apply competencies directly in their work context

Strong personal networks among students



Lessons Learned

Success Factors:

Fostering social presence in asynchronous learning

Optimal group size 10 – 18 persons

Clear weekly structure, transparent workload

Activating Etivities

Regular & trustful online discussions

Instructor presence through feedback and summaries

Teacher training



Scalability & Transferability

- ✓ Etivity framework and Community of Inquiry transferable across disciplines
- ✓ Suitable for master-level programs, lifelong learning, and international programs
- ✓ Quality assurance via peer review, mentoring, training of teachers
- ✓ Approach already piloted with other programs & institutions

Our publications
on our approach &
lessons learned:



Thanks to my group