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Digital technologies for LSP teacher education and professional development in a multilingual international context

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The demand for teaching Languages for Specific Purposes (LSP) is growing steadily, which can be explained by wider employment opportunities in an international environment. However, standardized training programmes for LSP teachers are missing in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA). With the aim of raising awareness of the work developed by some European scholars within the framework of the Erasmus+ KA2 funded programmes, this paper presents an overview of the currently undergoing project "LSP Teacher Education Online Course for Professional Development" (LSP-TEOC.Pro), and sheds light on how such courses can be developed within a multilingual international context as well as its affordances and challenges. Focal questions are: Is there any provision of online training programmes for pre-service and/or in-service LSP teachers within the EHEA? The desktop research conducted attests that programmes are scarce and limited. So, what does LSP-TEOC. Pro have to offer? To what extent can this project be labeled as innovative in the field? How can a multilingual international context be addressed? Findings from needs analysis, document analysis and surveys on the use of digital technologies reveal that the use of an open educational resource (OER) such as Moodle can be highly convenient to match the requirements of this online course. Also, results gathered have helped to create the framework for the LSP online training programme that will hopefully be delivered via such OER. Lastly, conclusions will be drawn on the implications of the work undertaken for the next steps and eventual completion of the project.

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Ana Bocanegra-Valle is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Cadiz, Spain. Her main research interests are English for research publication purposes, ESP/EAP discourse, methodology and education, and Maritime English. She has published with prestigious journals and publishers and served as peer reviewer for (inter-)national journals.

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Recommendation (for student section)

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