

## “Skillville”

By Ruben Jans

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Why did I start an overseas course about Technology Enhanced Learning?

I’m Ruben Jans, and I work at the Limburg Catholic University College in Belgium. I have a number of roles there;

I’m a teacher in the teacher training department and also a researcher investigating ‘Education and ICT’.

For the past 10 months I have been working on a major e-learning project. Our main goal is to prepare 12-18 year olds for real life by helping them become financially literate. We’ve created an innovative elearning tool called Skillville.

We’ve made Skillville challenging and enjoyable by creating a game about managing money and including realistic scenarios about financial issues.

This has been a major project that we hope will make a real difference to students’ lives.

There has been a team of us developing this game but we wouldn’t have been able to do it without doing the TELIC course.

Let me explain...

Back in 2007 I graduated at the Limburg Catholic University College as a Teacher Secondary Education.

Thanks to my bachelor dissertation, I got the opportunity to work at the University College teaching and doing research.

It was an exciting time but I was not feeling confident due to my lack of knowledge about research methodologies. And even not knowing how to adopt new tools in teaching practise, and dealing with change management.

So I started searching for a masters course, where I could learning all the things I was not feeling confident about.

There would be other benefits like a higher income and a more stable position at the university college.

This course needed to be something I could combine with my fulltime job.

It was TELIC that gave me the insights I needed in technology, learning and change management.

I completed the course in [2007] and after finishing I got a kind of a promotion in the Teacher Training department.

My job now included quite a variety of work;

Some colleagues were just starting to adopt a VLE into their own practise and I was able to help them with taking these steps.

Other colleagues needed some more specific support in using technology to support group work with blogs and discussion boards. I also give a small course for teachers to give them more insights into e-pedagogy.

Without doing the TELIC course, none of this would have been possible.

Most importantly, TELIC also helped me to work in a team.

Creating Skillville has been a big team effort. I have been working with group of colleagues from the university college. What's interesting is that we have ALL successfully finished the TELIC MSc.

The TELIC course helped me not only to focus on the technology, but also to see the whole picture of what the project was trying to achieve and to take into account the needs of all the stakeholders.

Skillville has been a great success. We reached more than 6000 students in less than 12 months. We hope to reach 10000 next year, helping many more young people make a good start in life.

I am very glad that I chose this TELIC course. It fits perfectly in my job. The insights into research methodologies and adopting new technologies has helped me to feel confident and competent in my job.