Update selection Learning Management System (LMS)

As previously announced the tender procedure for the selection of a Learning Management System (LMS) is well underway. Currently, the university is working with Blackboard.

Two rounds
The procedure consists of two rounds: in the first round eight universities and 'hogescholen' collectively concluded a framework agreement with four potential LMS suppliers. In the second round, the universities en 'hogescholen' will individually select an LMS of one of these suppliers. At the moment, we have entered the second round.

Four suppliers
The following suppliers have been selected during the first round:

1. Blackboard (Blackboard)
2. Desire2Learn (Brightspace)
3. Instructure (Canvas)
4. ThreeShips (N@tschool)

It is now up to Leiden University to choose one system from the shortlist. The university has drafted a Statement of Requirements (*Programma van Eisen en Wensen*) with input from all Leiden faculties. This document describes the requirements and conditions of the LMS. Furthermore, the suppliers have been requested to give insight as to how their vision and the possibilities of their product are related to Leiden University's educational vision, 'Learning@Leiden'. On 6 November 2017 we will know which suppliers will submit a tender based on our needs.

The tenders will be assessed by a multidisciplinary team consisting of vice deans, members of the steering committee, Blackboard and ICTO coordinators, operational managers, and information managers on faculty level. This will eventually result in a ranking of suppliers and systems.

Usability

At the same time, we will assess the usability of the various LMS systems. The user tests will be conducted by teaching staff, students, and coordinators. The end results will be taken into account in the overall assessment of the tender.

In the meantime, a call for user test participants has been put out to all staff and students. We are still looking for more students. Are you a student and are you willing to join one of the teams? Please contact the project group LMS before 1 November 2017 via lmsproject@bb.leidenuniv.nl. The user tests will run from 20 November until 1 December 2017 (location to be confirmed).

Next steps
The number one supplier in our ranking will be asked to enter a test phase (the so-called 'Proof of Concept'). If this process runs smoothly, we will most probably select an LMS by March 2018. After that, we will start the implementation process. It is likely that we will start working in the new system as of September 2019.