

PRO-STRATEGY GUIDE

E-learning environments ready for pilot sessions and final version

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E-learning environments in PRO-STRATEGY GUIDE

In order to achieve the goals of project, it was decided to prepare the on-line platform containing the PRO-STRATEGY course and base it on Joomla! CMS system.

Why Joomla! ?

Joomla is an award-winning content management system (CMS), which enables you to build Web sites and powerful online applications. Many aspects, including its ease-of-use and extensibility, have made Joomla the most popular Web site software available. Best of all, Joomla is an open source solution that is freely available to everyone.

A content management system is software that keeps track of every piece of content on your Web site, much like your local public library keeps track of books and stores them. Content can be simple text, photos, music, video, documents, or just about anything you can think of. A major advantage of using a CMS is that it requires almost no technical skill or knowledge to manage. Since the CMS manages all your content, you don't have to. (source: <http://www.joomla.org/about-joomla.html>)

Joomla! has also such advantages as:

- a) Plugins - the script has several thousands of free plugins available at the homepage,.
- b) Support - there is abundance of programmer's tools and tutorials available for users. There's also an extensive discussion board,
- c) Navigation management - the script has a comprehensive navigation system, that can successfully manage several hierarchies. It allows to easily manage a site even with couple hundred subpages. From user's perspective, the navigation is also easy and clear.
- d) Good looking URLs - links generated by the script are very friendly and make for better SEO positioning,
- e) Updates - when the page design is ready, there will come a time to update the script to a newer version,
- f) Advanced administration - administration panel provides many functions to use the full potential of the script,
- g) Interface – the interface is user friendly. There is a possibility to design it in very clear way so users are not intimidated with information overloaded interface that is hard to use,
- h) support different formats – Joomla! supports different kinds of content: video, SCORM, text, URL, interactive objects etc.

The on-line platform based on Joomla! was designed with regards to conclusions from cross-cultural analysis that SMEs representatives need flexible, easy manageable system that would help them to learn in most convenient way: wherever and whenever they are able to. Moreover, system supports the knowledge extension by providing the interactive glossary. The platform identifies also the project (EU logotype, Partners logotypes, project logotype).

How to start using the e-learning environments?

1. Enter the website address: <http://pro-learning.pl/>
2. Login in: each user would be able to have own account and receive login data/ create an account
3. Main page – there are two methods of navigation:
 - a) Top menu - user can choose the Flashcards from the list of 10 Units that can be found by hovering the mouse on the “PRO-STRATEGY GUIDE”. Within one Unit there is from 1 to several Flashcards. Each Flashcard has the same structure (introduction, videotutorial, activity, etc.). User can choose from which element he would like to start with. This is for users that are already familiar (at least to some extent) with Strategic Management. Therefore they will be aware what particular Units and Flashcards talk about.
 - b) Word cloud –user can start with ‘word cloud’ including important themes connected with Strategic Management. By clicking on the selected theme, he will be able to diagnose his knowledge by answering a question. If the knowledge will be not sufficient, the system will move him to proper Flashcards so he could learn more about particular theme. This method is for users that are to start work with Strategic Management. By answering the question from ‘word cloud’ which reflect their potential problems, they indicate the level of their knowledge and system responds by prompting the Flashcard to read. (not available in the newest version – removed after testing procedure)
4. Navigation – user is able to navigate within one Flashcard by clicking the red arrow on the bottom of page. In order to get back to main page, it is enough to click on the banner on the top of the page.

NOTICE:

5. For first version, please see:
<http://knaparty.nazwa.pl/instalator/prolearning/index.php?lang=pl>
6. For final version, please visit: <http://pro-learning.pl/> (login: audytfrse password: frse_2015)

E-learning formats are obviously integrated with innovative formats (results 10 and 11) and developed PRO-STRATEGY Guide content (result 8 and 9) and tutorial for building innovative learning culture (results 14 and 15). Therefore it is impossible to separate them.