LibreEOL FOR A WORLDWIDE EChemTest®: AND E-ASSESSMENT SERVICE

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The evolution of EChemTest® towards a worldwide open service is based on a decision taken one year ago by the ECTN Association and implemented starting from January 1st, 2021 leveraging the use of LibreEOL [1] Self Evaluation Sessions (SES)s. Such a move has called for a tighter collaboration among Test Centres (TC)s (and related Accredited Test Sites (ATS)s if any) and the central and financial management of relevant activities by the ECTN Association. Central to this point is the handling of the information produced by LibreEOL during the SESs for the evaluation of the test taker and the issuing of the Individual Proficiency Certificates (IPC)s. We are working to facilitate the automatic issuance of certificates.

The strategy we intended to take in terms of information interchange between the technical and administrative parts was to utilize an open format that allows an interested reader to readily grasp its content while also being efficient in automating access and maintenance of its information content. Preference will be given to a list of accessible pdf files named according to an agreed-upon process. This will make it easier for the secretariat to submit essential data for the purpose of allocating the run SESs to the appropriate TC/ATS and transferring the necessary information onto the related Individual Proficiency Certificates (IPCs). This will also enable the secretariat to compare the desired SES to the approved ones and approve its operation. This also eliminates the need for the TC/ATS examiner to be involved in the process of granting the IPCs.

Starting from December 2020, LibreEOL has been adopted also by the University of Perugia to deploy written exams from remote, because of the Pandemic. The success of the platform has been overwhelming: more than 350 teachers enrolled in the platform within a couple of months, 870 subjects created, 24000 questions, more than 15000 students registered, 3000 exam sessions and more than 45000 individual tests (Fig.1). The architecture, based on a commercial Cloud environment, is perfectly scalable, and can be expanded indefinitely from an architectural standpoint - it's just a matter of cost of service.

We hope that other universities will join that of Perugia to carry out regular evaluations of skills in digital form, respectful of the privacy of the candidates (unlike daring solutions, which in addition to allowing tests of dubious validity, systematically violate the privacy of the candidates).

[1] O. Gervasi and A. Laganà, EoL a web-based distance assessment system. Lecture Notes on Computer Science . 3044, 854-862 (2004)
[2] O. Gervasi, D. Perri, M. Simonetti: Una piattaforma scalabile per esami sicuri da remoto, Conferenza GARR 2021, 16 giugno 2021.
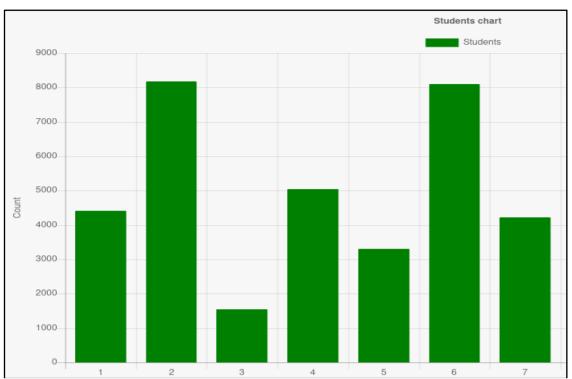
Fig.1 : Number of students of the University of Perugia who took exams with LibreEOL in the period January-July 2021