

How to support collaborative work

The webinar programme on
ICT IN PEDAGOGY

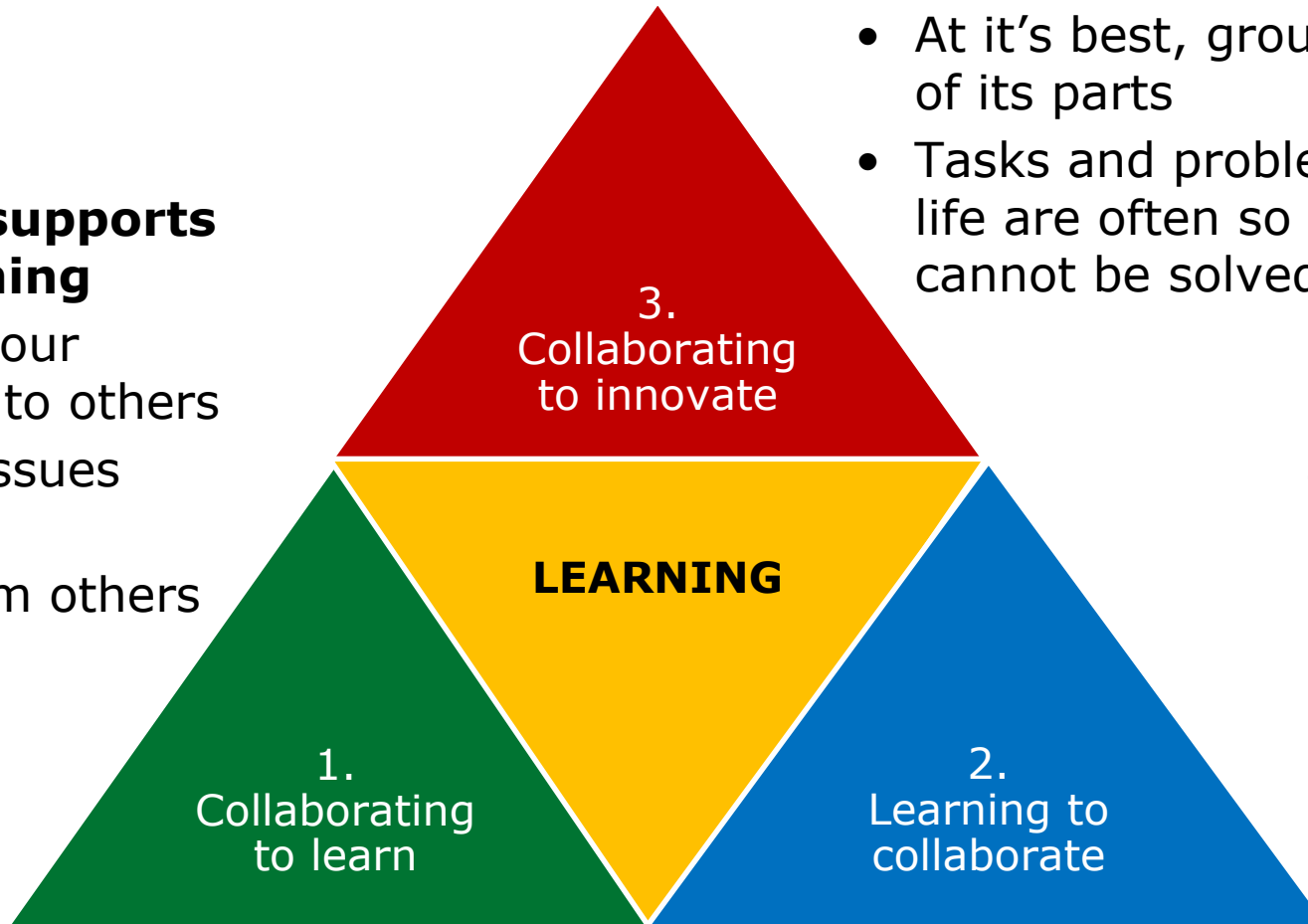
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The meaning of collaboration in education

Group work supports content learning

- explaining your perceptions to others
- examining issues with others
- learning from others



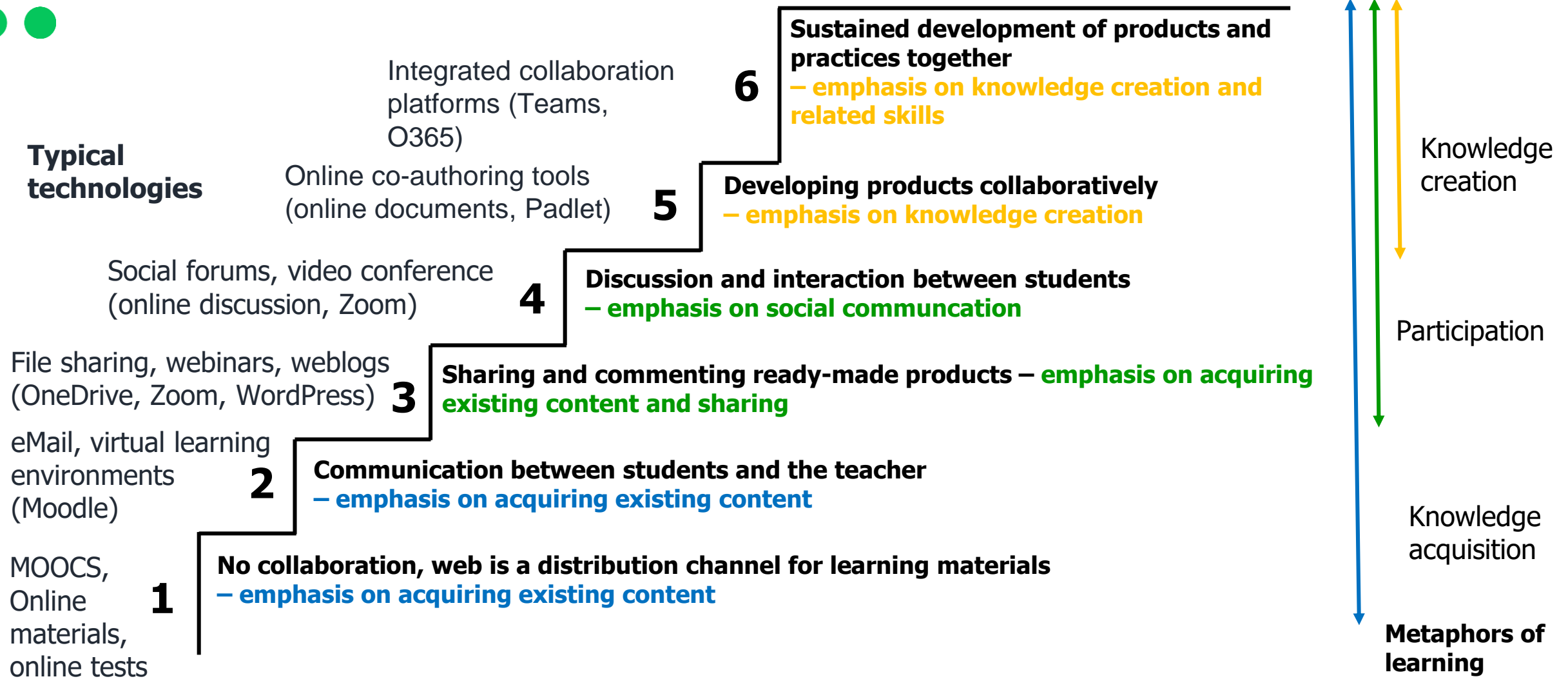
Together we can do better than alone

- At it's best, group is more than the sum of its parts
- Tasks and problems encountered in real life are often so complex that they cannot be solved alone

Group work develops collaboration skills

- Collaboration skills belong to relevant key competencies
- Collaboration skills develop when 1) you know how to behave in group work, 2) you get practice in group work, and 3) you reflect on your group behaviour

“Steps of collaboration” in distance/online learning



● ● Practical advice and hints for organising collaboration in blended learning courses 1

Studying in an online environment and collaborating in a virtual team is not (usually) familiar to students. In addition, teachers are not familiar in organising and guiding students' collaboration, and for this reason, teaching is often quite teacher-centered.

1. Help to create mutual trust and engagement

Create some virtual ways of presenting students, e.g. online slides in which everyone presents her-/himself.

Organise also funny and not-so-serious activities! Let participants use also their creative and playful moods, e.g., "artistic" group presentations or game-like tasks.

● ● Practical advice and hints for organising collaboration in blended learning courses 2

2. Support collaboration skills in the learning activities

Create activities which require interaction, e.g., answering to others' comments, commenting each other, using microphone to speak.

Create challenging group assignments, so that everyone's work is needed, e.g., projects or writing assignments.

Keep on organising collaboration activities throughout the course, even if the first ones do not succeed.

Use online collaboration tools (for writing, presenting, brainstorming, etc.)

Use online group work tools (breakout rooms).