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Evangelos Himonides
Andrew King
Francisco Cuadrado

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Educamus. An online platform with integrated software for pre-service music training of non-music Chilean Primary teachers.

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Abstract
This work in progress describes the construction of EducaMus and its components.

Keywords
pre-service music training , music technology, massive open online courses

Aims
Nowadays, music is a compulsory curricular subject in the Chilean educational system, to which it has been assigned two hours of classes per week. Approximately 102,000 teachers, 56% of the total, are working at Primary Schools. Of these, only 2.25% have formal music instruction (Ministry of Education of Chile, 2015). The rest of the teachers have to teach music at Primary Education level, but teachers lack both specialized music and music didactic competences. Formation to achieve these competences should occur during their pre-service teacher training in order to successfully offer music classes at the level of Primary Education, but few Chilean universities have implemented this subject and the corresponding training for this career. Furthermore, there are not enough institutional or private offers for in-service training music courses. Finally, full-time teachers engage in their profession for 42 hours per week, making it difficult for them to

attend extended in-service music courses. As a consequence of these facts, even when music is highly regarded, as in the Chilean Primary education curricular design, it remains unsystematically approached by teachers with neither music training nor an initial formation in music pedagogy. In order to cover this educational shortcoming, we have developed EducaMus, an online platform intended to host massive open courses (MOOC) devoted to pre-service music training of general teachers in the Chilean educational system. At this moment, EducaMus includes a software solution for this goal called Music Training for General Teachers (Formación Musical para Profesores de Ed. Básica), which has software embedded and associated for real-time music practice and assessment.

Methods

Construction of EducaMus has followed the model of design science research methodology as a framework, with its corresponding process elements: 1) problem identification, which detects needs and constructs a theoretical framework; 2) construction, responsible for development, analysis, experimentation, and observation; and 3) evaluation, providing for testing and for designing the first public version (Peffers, Tuunanen, Rothenberger, & Chatterjee, 2007).

Outcome(s)

This is a work in progress that describes EducaMus and its components. At the moment, it is in the validation process, so no results are shown.

Characteristics

The novelty of this course consists in the integration of associated software – namely Cantus -software for real-time training of singing intonation- (Pérez-Gil, Tejada, Morant & Pérez, 2016), Tactus,- that facilitate tapping rhythm activities (Tejada, Pérez-Gil & Pérez, 2011) and Musipuzzles – software for the ordering of structural musical elements. These activities are assessed in real-time by the computer. This proves beneficial for the pupils, who get an immediate evaluation of their performing, and for music teachers, as well, because assessment is one of the most time-consuming and complicated tasks in music-education. Other software for training are some flash modules embedded in the platform.

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