

# Review of: "Analyzing Students' Perceptions of Collaborative Tools for Automated Assessment of Programming Assignments in Distance Education"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

## Reviewer's comments

Dear Gabri & Alberto Bedogni

Peer Review Team, Qeios

Thank you for giving me the chance to review this manuscript.

Title: Analyzing Students' Perceptions of Collaborative Tools for Automated Assessment of Programming Assignments in Distance Education

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Manuscript Type: Original article

Keywords: Collaborative learning, Educational Technology, Mattermost, Distance education and telelearning.

## OVERALL EVALUATION AND GENERAL COMMENTS:

This study aimed to examine the effects of the integration of an adaptation of Mattermost in combination with DSLab in an e-learning environment in Higher Education. This integration may enable the possibilities for collaboration among teachers and students to be expanded to provide improved interactions, encourage spontaneous learning, and send emoticons that lead to substantial improvement in learning more than the traditional virtual campus forum.

The authors assessed the students' perspective using a questionnaire, and they compared the perspectives of the experiment group (who used the integrated collaborative tools) and the control group (who used the traditional virtual campus forum).

### The main strengths, as I perceive them, are:

The idea of this research is good and needed. Also, the integration between the learning tool (Mattermost) and the assessment (DSLab) provides aligned learning.

**However, there are many technical details that I cannot assess. I think the big hurdle for reproducibility of the**

**studied method is the technical aspect and the need for an IT support team. Therefore, reviewing this work by experts in technology will provide points for improving the used tools.**

Therefore, for me, I need this study to be reviewed by reviewers who are experienced in technology and in these tools.

**Final recommendation:**

I hope these comments may help in improving this research.

**Confidential comments to editor:**

What new observations have been reported in this paper?

For me, the aim of this work is attractive, and the results are encouraging to use these integrated collaborative learning and assessment tools. However, this work needs to be reviewed by specialists in technology

What is the value of this work as a contribution in this field?

I think this work is of value in improving virtual learning.