



Consortium of the universities involved in the development of the Dokeos® software





I. Introduction

Dokeos software is used by more than 1.000 organisations worldwide. It is developed, tested and funded through a consortium including the Dokeos company and a series of partner universities. This document defines the terms of the collaboration.

II. The Dokeos software

Dokeos is a Learning Management System, *i.e.* a web-based software helping organisations manage learning activities like following a course, participating to a workshop, attending to a conference, submitting an assignment, collaborating in a group to write a report...

III. Dokeos is released under GPL license

Dokeos software is an *Open Source* software distributed along the Gnu General Public License (GPL). This means it is free of charge, freely downloadable from the <http://www.dokeos.com/> website and nobody can decide to transform it into a non-GPL software in the future.

Anybody is free to fork from this software to create his/her own release with whatever adaptations of the original, as far as copyright rules are respected.

The name *Dokeos* is a registered Trade Mark of Thomas De Praetere.

IV. Creative commons

The idea behind Open Source software development is to release a production in the public domain so as to invite others to collaborate to it and share workforce. This has many advantages :

- share development costs;
- get more eyes on the software to improve quality;
- reduce the digital divide by providing easier access to software in developing countries;
- have the software used by a vast number of people and promote it through an mouth-to-ear process;
- feed other projects by providing recyclable building blocks;
- Offer guarantees for the long term sustainability of the project.

V. How much does it cost?

Participation of universities to the consortium is free of charge but implies that each university leads its part of the development to a delivery. This includes noticeably:

1. analysis;
2. interfaces design;
3. linguistic abstraction layer;
4. documentation;
5. correspond icons design;
6. required upgrade features.

If a university wants the help of the Dokeos company to complete the necessary steps for integration into the next release, an agreement on the cost of the integration will be required.

VI. Why enter the consortium?

If your university uses Dokeos and you want to participate to the funding, development and/or testing of the software, your participation to the consortium will help you manage development the right way and collaborate with the other members so as to optimise the work of everybody.

Advantages of consortium membership are noticeably your access to :

- project management software : <http://projects.dokeos.com/>;
- development mailing list;
- beta code and documentation;
- security warnings and patches;
- roadmap of other partners;
- development meetings;
- proposing your contributions.

VII. Conditions to enter the consortium

Universities are free to use the Dokeos software without being members of the consortium. They can subscribe a support contract without being members of the consortium. Becoming a user of the software, a client for services and a member of the consortium are three separate decisions.

Application consists in a motivation email addressed to consortium@dokeos.com . The email will detail :

1. Reasons for the application;
2. Contribution proposals (can be funding, software analysis, pedagogical expertise, code, documentation, testing, translation, e-learning content...);
3. Acceptance of the collaboration rules (see below).

VIII. Collaboration rules

The collaboration between partner universities and the Dokeos company are the following:

1. Any partner is free to quit the consortium at any time without warning.
2. To enter the consortium, the candidate must provide a motivation letter. This motivation letter will be examined by the Steering Committee.
3. The Steering Committee is constituted of maximum 5 people and necessary includes three permanent members : one representative of the Dokeos Company, one representative of the Gent Universiteit, one representative of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel. The 2 other seats will be coopted by the three permanent members and can vary from one year to the other.
4. Any member of the consortium can propose features and developments and is free to add these developments into the Community Release and/or the Dokeos Extensions repository.
5. Any member of the consortium has access to all Dokeos development tools listed in IV.
6. The decision to add a feature to the Dokeos official releases remains the decision of the Steering Committee.

IX. Address of the consortium

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