Global Online Science Labs for Inquiry Learning at School

Go-Lab (http://www.go-lab-project.eu/) is an EU project developing a portal for online labs in science. A prototype of this portal can be found at www.golabz.eu. Besides online labs the portal offers scaffolds (apps) for learning, for example a tool for learners to create hypotheses. Teachers can create learning environments (so-called Inquiry Learning Spaces or ILSs) by combining labs, scaffolds and other resources. Ready-made ILSs are also offered at the portal.

The Go-Lab project is searching for schools and/or individual teachers who are willing to give feedback on the portal and its elements, or are willing to let their students work with Go-Lab software (labs and/or ILSs). All activities will be carefully guided by members of the Go-Lab project. The Leicester Go-Lab team are responsible for coordinating these activities as workshops at schools across the UK.

Here is a brief outline of the workshops we plan to conduct. Please note that the activities described below are based on the assumption that more than one science teacher in the school will take part in the workshop. However, if it is not the case, we can do a one-to-one session with individual teachers/students. We are very open to modifying the workshop to take practicalities into account.

Session with Teachers (~ 2 hours)
1. Presentation by Go-Lab researchers: Introduction to the goal of the workshop (why we need feedback and how we will make use of it) (10 minutes)
2. Demonstration by Go-Lab researchers: How to use the Go-Lab portal (http://www.golabz.eu) and a feedback tool called PDot (15 mins)
3. Hands-on activities by teachers: Work through an online lab based lesson on a selected lab (NB: We have a list of ILSs on physics, biology and chemistry; you are much welcome to identify one that suits your students) (60 minutes)
4. Group discussions and/or questionnaires or possibly other more creative and collaborative feedback activities (25 minutes)

Session with Students (~ 1.5 hours or a double lesson)
(In the presence of the teacher and Go-Lab researchers) Repeat Steps 1 - 4 of Session with Teachers with some time and content modifications.

The two sessions will be conducted on different days or with at least a lunch break between them.

Should you have any queries, please feel free to contact the Leicester Go-Lab team <ULEIC-GO-LAB@leicester.ac.uk> or contact me directly: Effie Law elaw@mcs.le.ac.uk

We are looking forward to collaborating with you in this exciting project.

Best regards,

Effie Law