

TestWe is launching a new platform first quarter of 2021

With a team of 20 staff members of International agile experts, TestWe has steadily been building its positioning throughout 12 countries and broadens towards expanding to other countries. The French firm has raised 1 million euros between 2018 and 2020, and has more than 100 customers, from academic institutions and organizations, which has led them through some peak periods to host more than 20,000 exams per day.

Early 2021, the Edtech company will be releasing its new version.

Mr Benoît Sillard, CEO of TestWe, tells us more.

What will be the new features of your e-assessment solution for Higher Education evaluations, exams, and contests?

Our solution allows institutions to generate any type of questions for their exams. Beyond the traditional Multiple-Choice Quiz, the solution enables to creating interactive exams using Fill-in-the blank, write essays, graphs, etc. as well as produce oral exams, in all subjects related to sciences and technology, business, law, languages, economy..., whether in written or through multimedia media (audio, video, image) or with random questions. The downstream MCQ exam, is automatically marked and therefore validated by the faculty. During an essay exam, students will find their known tools to underline words, write comments on a side among other options. With TestWe, faculty can embed course syllabus as well as exam features, learning goals (LG), integrate learning objectives (LO), as well as grading ratios.

With all these innovations, Higher Education Institutions are now able to pick up their choices inside two parameters: the financial parameter and the anti-cheating management parameter. By handling the anti-cheating management more or less severely, subsequently the solution will provide the most suitable options to the requestor.

Faculty and professors can implement the mechanisms they choose within the TestWe software and customize the e-exams straightforwardly.

TestWe puts data to work at the service of innovation and value creation, what are the insights and advantages?

I would say there are four strategic features.

First and foremost is the one that streamlines the heavy processes of organizing exams for an institution and encompasses a great organizational management strategy. With TestWe, the

institution removes all paper copies processing, archiving, renting storage spaces.....as many costly and time consuming tasks. Moreover, we build up databases that allow professors develop and duplicate the same exam and assign it to another class for example, allocating significant time saving to faculty. By giving the opportunity to students to take the exam from their home avoiding all the travel expenses incurred from travelling from abroad or other provinces, we are contributing all to lower the carbon footprint. TestWe helps to decrease your budget from organizing all your exams in the classrooms in situ with all the costs involved.

The second feature is to eliminate any digital inequality between students when it comes to having or not a powerful internet connection. We are indeed the only ones to offer the possibility to take an e-exam without the Internet nor Wi-Fi connections. However, many students have poor or nonexistent connection, although many institutions do not have the network facilities to host hundreds of students simultaneously taking the same exam. With TestWe it is achievable as the student has only to download our application beforehand, then take the exam.

Third feature, equality between candidates by removing any cheating opportunities. Once the TestWe application is downloaded all the windows opened will be blocked, the student will only be in our environment when taking the exam. This method eliminates any possible cheating. When a student takes an exam, he can't do anything else on his computer. It is simple and extremely effective. It is an extreme guarantee.

The last feature is more related to the learning experience. As TestWe gathers and analyzes the exam data, we deliver learning reporting tools, dashboards which allow professors to measure students' performance, to detect how long they spent in one particular question, if another question has generated a high failure rate. With a vision of student performance, by cohorts or individually, faculty members can adjust their training content as well as assist students.

What have been the impacts on TestWe`s activity since the pandemic occurred ?

The first containment has helped to overcome resistance to digital technology: the pedagogical transformation of Higher Education institutions is under way. Currently, students who have taken distance learning find it odd to go back to "paper/pen/in-class" to take their exam, as well as professors who have invested and adapted their teaching to digital.

Moreover, the first containment had accelerated our growth, and sometimes we have struggled to respond to all the demands from different institutions. When 10,000 students are taking an exam at the same time, if 1% has webcam issues as they did not do the recommended tests beforehand, therefore we get 100 cases to manage urgently...

But we managed it, everything has been going well and we realize that the second containment produces similar effects. We receive a lot of requests from universities and schools and of course we welcome that.

I would add that the vast majority of those who have integrated our solution as part of their learning experience, a few masters programs for example, have decided when they renew the contract that they wish to be digitized 100%. It is the case of Skema Business School or the ENA.

Who are your customers?

Higher Education institutions mainly such as in France Sorbonne University Paris 1, Skema, ESCCA, Montpellier Business School, Toulouse Business School, and Sciences Po Rennes... we also facilitate contests evaluations for Sesame, Puissance Alpha CPGE, and also at International level as our platform is displayed and used in different languages. A third of our users are located outside France, such as the Catholica in Lisbon (Portugal), the University of Geneva (Switzerland), University of York in Toronto (Canada). We also work in Brazil, Spain, Germany, Morocco, Lebanon, as well as China.

Who are your privileged contacts in these Institutions?

Most of the time it is an educational leader, in some institutions the IT services leader. But given the sensitivity of the subject, we often also talk with the Managing Director or the CEO. We also interact with students when they have requests about the platform.

Exactly, where do we stand on this debate?

It is behind us. Students and faculty were asking questions about two issues. Is equality guaranteed? Is privacy respected? To answer the first question, absolutely, we make sure equality is respected as students can take their exams through TestWe without the need of Internet connection, they are all on the same page with or without connection as they are in an anti- cheating environment. There is no more equal and open system than TestWe. Secondly, our solution is perfectly ethical and legal, and we are most attentive to the full respect of RGPD as well as all European standards.

For any further information, please contact Beatriz Perez Soto, Beatriz.soto@testwe.eu, +33659 79 52 62.