



## Institutional ePortfolios Video 2: Why?

### Why did you introduce the ePortfolio?

We did a needs analysis and we all decided jointly that an ePortfolio would be a good vehicle for helping us to help students to demonstrate achievement of competencies, help students to reflect and have dialogue with a network of their choosing – so collaborating with peers – and also a dialogue with the tutor.

(Dr Bettie Higgs, University College Cork)

Well, we used portfolios in the first instance when we had the programme first validated in 2008. And that was as a result of my experience as a student on the MA in Teaching and Learning in DIT. I found the process of producing a portfolio invaluable and as a result, brought it into our professional programme. We moved to ePortfolios then as a result of one of the students on the programme using ePortfolios in a very dynamic way. And it impressed us no end.

(Dr Fiona O’Riordan, Griffith College)

We were really concerned about two things. We wanted to ensure that the students reflected on their work and ePortfolios gave them an opportunity to do that. But also, we were very concerned that what we do in courses and what they do in their field experience, teaching in the schools, comes in isolated chunks. And we really wanted them to see the importance of pulling it all together. We wanted them to have a place where it all came together, and the ePortfolio seemed like a really good way to manage both of those things, a place where everything came together and everything was subject to reflection.

(Dr Bill Hunter, University of Ontario Institute of Technology)

A couple of things really. One prompt was we redesigned the whole programme extensively back in 2012/2013 in response to a teaching council report on initial teacher education. The second was to replace large swathes of printed material, you know, and it was a cost saving there, for the students. So those were the two main prompts. And I suppose the third one then, because our students are teachers of the technology subject, and they are quite comfortable with technology, it was a good fit for them to use animated powerpoints, video

clips, solidworks, animated solidworks, little video clips. You know, so it was the best medium for the students really.

(Kevin Maye, Galway Mayo Institute of Technology)