Wonder @ USI

A platform to promote social interaction between students and teachers in USI study programmes

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Wonder.me (http://wonder.me) is an online platform that can be used as a place to promote informal meetings and interactions for students and teachers in each curriculum. For those interested, we propose to test it during the upcoming spring semester 2021. The platform is free of charge (at least until the end of the year), usable via browser (no client needs to be installed) and does not require registration, except for those who create a room.

1. How wonder.me works

Wonder.me allows you to create one or more rooms where you can interact as in a videoconference (with video, audio, chat and screen sharing) with the other people; to enter a room you just need the room’s URL.

In order to interact with the other participants, it is necessary to move around the room and approach the person with whom you want to interact; once you are in contact, a circle is automatically created in which you can interact with audio and video with the other people in the circle. In a room you can create as many circles as you want; within each circle there can be a maximum of 15 participants.

In each room you can create areas (the rectangles in the picture below), for example to bring together the people interested in the same topic.
The person who creates the room (the host) can also activate the broadcast mode, which temporarily suspends all the circles, deactivating the audio and webcam of all the participants, and allows the host to speak to all the people in the room; the host can invite up to 5 other speakers to speak in broadcast mode.

2. How wonder.me can be used at USI

If you wish, you can create a room for your study program and invite students and teachers of the program to enter the room to meet and interact with others, at fixed times or freely whenever they want.

You can customise the background of the room: backgrounds with USI images will be available in the next few days (ask to eLab).

3. How to...

- Create a room: go to http://wonder.me, click on "Get a room" in the top right-hand corner, enter the name of the room you want to create (e.g. the name of the Master), enter your name and e-mail address and set a password for the room (only the person creating the room is asked to enter the data, participants do not have to enter any data). At this point, the room is created; you will receive a confirmation e-mail with the room URL.

- Invite others to a room: send the room URL to the person you want to invite and they will be able to enter the room by clicking on the link. If you want, you can set a password to access the room (different from the host password you have already set), to be communicated with the invitation.

- Create an area within the room: click on the settings icon in the right-hand column, then on 'Room areas'; enter the names of the area(s) you want to create. The areas will be created and automatically placed in the room. You can create up to 15 areas per room.

For more information, please refer to the FAQ on wonder.me: https://support.wonder.me/hc/en-us/articles/360013499978-FAQs

4. eLab contacts

E-mail: helpdesk@elearninglab.org
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