

Diana Gerritsen sharing her EdTech experience at the Media & Learning conference in Leuven, Belgium

Co-written By :  
Sartou Djibril and Diana  
Gerritsen

## What does a teacher need from an EdTech startup?

As an EdTech startup, the uphill battle of launching a new innovation in education has left us disillusioned at times. Though we kept at it knowing there are enough pioneering teachers to help us through this initial challenging stage.

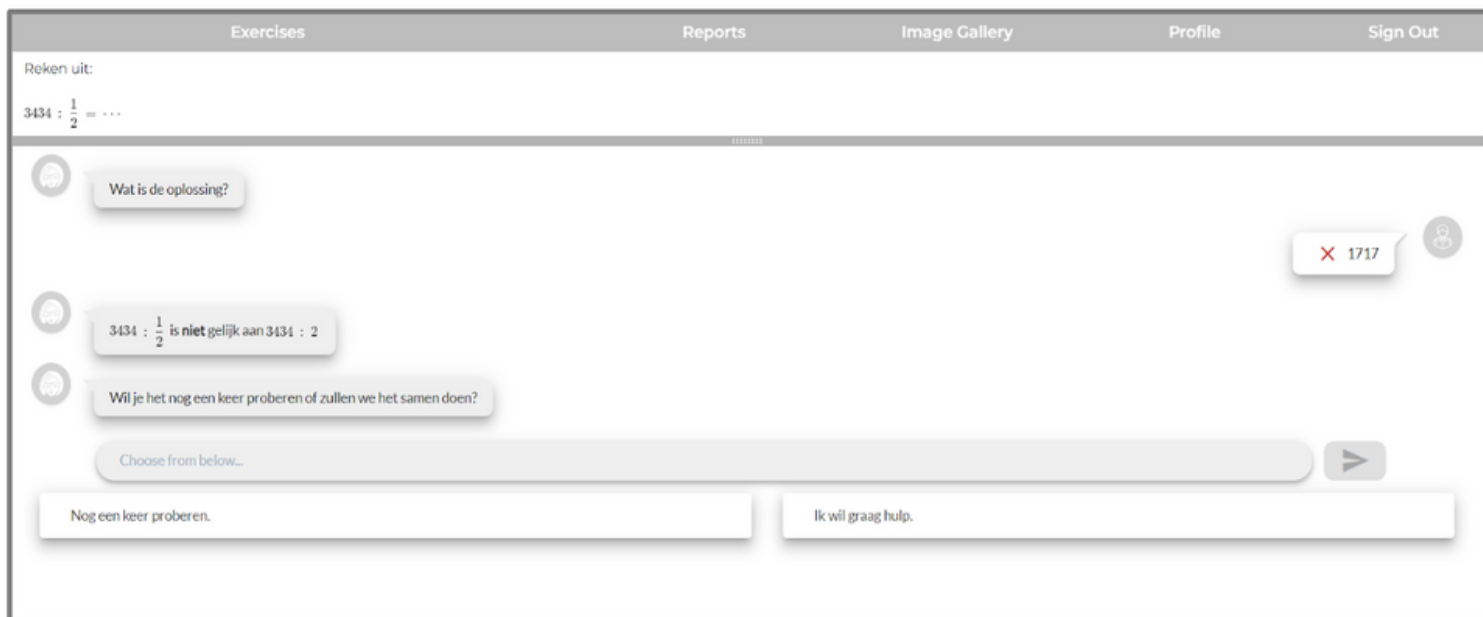
One of these pioneering teachers is Diana Gerritsen who really stood out of the crowd. What characterises her is that she had a vision in mind before she met us and Enlight Ed's solution at its basic form coincided with how she envisioned EdTech.

She had clear expectations as to how EdTech should support teachers and students. In her view, the focus should be purely on core challenges of teachers and students.

Nothing fancy, no gamification, no hot air balloons or anything else that is hyped up in today's world of technology. In higher education, what students want is the ability to build on their skills and experience a progression of their development.

Developing skills usually requires step-by-step guidance that only a teacher can provide. Whereas for a teacher, time is limited to guide all students and follow their progression. These challenges sound like a fair match for an EdTech startup and these challenges are what driving us at Enlight Ed.





Together with Inholland and HvA, Enlight Ed co-developed a complete curriculum in mathematics for PABO students to strengthen their maths skills.

Diana works as a maths teacher educator at Inholland, in the primary school teacher training program (Pabo). In the first year of this program, Diana and her colleagues are helping over 500 students with maths skills which is critical to be certified as a primary school teacher. Many students are struggling with maths skills which is the main source of stress, specifically in the first year of their study program. With a stronger knowledge and skill set in maths, students improve their chances to successfully complete their teacher education.

## How did we win Diana over?

Diana could practically see how Enlight Ed's platform with its maths content and automated step-by-step guidance replicated her teaching effort. She had clear ideas of what optimised independent studies and student engagement. Once the pilot was approved to start, we co-developed together with Diana some critical components such as the dashboard with progress report which was visible to both students and teachers, as well as a knowledge check function which helped students to continuously check how they should focus their practices.

The initial phase of the pilot was conducted within a period of 12 months, where 350 students participated. The data captured by Enlight Ed's platform is vast. Some nuggets of the data are that students spent over 6000 hours practising the exercises and solved over 180 000 exercises. Without conducting an in depth research of the available data, this already tells us that students are hooked and the exam scores are improving. As a result, Inholland Pabo decided to implement Enlight Ed across all their 5 locations which will broaden our data repository which will open the door to conduct research into the efficacy of Enlight Ed.

