

MOOCs, the European way

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Fact: MOOCs ignore
decades of research in
online education



- Tony Bates: the teaching methods 'are based on a very old and out-dated behaviourist pedagogy, relying primarily on information transmission, computer-marked assignments and peer assessment'
- Sir John Daniel, in an oft quoted report
- I myself (Surf special issue, scoop.it comments)



*Fact: the instructional
quality of MOOCs is
appallingly low*



- Margaryan, Bianco & Littlejohn analysed 76 courses (50 xMOOCs and 26 cMOOCs) on 10 principles for good instructional quality operationalised in a Course Scan instrument with 24 items
- the 10 principles cover Dave Merrill's 5 first principles of Instructional Design plus 5 more of their own making



- ‘Most courses implemented only some of the principles ...’
- max score 28 out of 72
- range 3-25 (xMOOCs), 0-28 (cMOOCs)



On the bright side,
though



- the article describes the status quo in 2013, perhaps better now?
- we now have quality benchmarks as in OpenupEd (Rosewell, openuped.org)
- the potential of MOOCs to act as change agents for 'regular' higher education (as opposed to 'open distance' learning)



MOOCs the European way: dispelling a few myths on the side



MOOCs democratise education?

- Koller in a 2012 TED talk claimed xMOOCs would increase access to first class education for developing countries
- many including me have argued this is a form of neo-colonialism (which is fortunately mostly absent in Europe)



MOOCs make quality education affordable?

- the costs of education in the USA have risen sky high (*fide* Bloomberg), the quality varies
- some people in the USA believe privatisation with MOOCs is the answer
- but should not remain education a public good?



MOOCs are open?

- xMOOCs are for free, as Facebook and Google are 'for free'
- genuine openness includes (OpenupEd)
 - open entry, freedom of time, place and pace, flexible pathways
 - open licensing



Conclusion

- MOOCs offer a promise iff
 - we make use of decades of research in TEL to improve their quality
 - forget their ‘democratising effect’
 - do not use them to privatise education
 - let them to help us collaborate



Conclusion (2)

- OpenupEd seeks to achieve precisely this
 - solid pedagogy
 - genuine openness
 - low on technology optimism high on ambitions
 - an opportunity to collaborate



Welcome



You are visiting the portal of a pan-European initiative OpenupEd around so-called MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses). The OpenupEd initiative was launched on April 25th 2013 in an online international press event. OpenupEd is a quality brand and ...

Tweet **8+1**



About MOOCs

MOOCs stand for Massive Open Online Courses. These courses can be fully taken online. They are 'open' in the sense that they can be accessed by...



OER

A crucial component in realizing a more Open Education is what we call Open Educational Resources (OER). This concept is around since...



About OpenupEd

With OpenupEd we aim at opening up education for you with an offer that reflects European values such as ...



Naming

OpenupEd is about MOOCs. But there is not a single description of what a MOOC would look like and indeed there is a wide variety in the MOOCs movement. Some of us prefer to...



What Courses

Courses range from mathematics to economics, e-skills to e-commerce, climate change to cultural heritage, corporate social responsibility to the modern Middle East, and language learning to writing fiction. Each partner is offering courses via its own ...



Why

OpenupEd has been introduced in the world of MOOCs because we see a clear need for a European move with a vision beyond the implementation of just a collection of MOOCs. This vision is to ...



latest tweet

"RT @cristobalsuarez:
OpenupEd
<http://t.co/k3v5VaW8se>"

by Marcela Tagua 4 days ago

Latest news

- > The OpenupEd Quality label - benchmarks for MOOCs
- > OpenupEd workshop at NOUN
- > Open call for position papers on MOOCs
- > Workshop together with ACDE on Globalizing OpenupEd
- > Update about OpenupEd MOOCs

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OpenupEd has been initiated and is coordinated by



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