UCLouvain

LOUVAIN LEARNING LAB

Innovation in study programmes: MOOCs and Virtual Exchange Programme

MOOCXPERIENCE LOUVAIN

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1. What are MOOCs?
2. What is innovative about MOOCs?
3. The *Louvain moocXperience* in short
4. Focus on the VEP – virtual exchange programme
5. Your turn: Explore innovations based on MOOCs in study programmes

1. What is a MOOC – massive open online course ?

a. An entirely online course
b. A video-based online course
c. An online course with a large number of students (more than 1000)
d. An online course open to anyone in the world

To be called a MOOC, an online course must have

a. A lot of videos
b. Free access (no enrollment fee)
c. The opportunity of taking tests and exams in order to get a certificate
d. A licence allowing reuse such as a Creative Commons licence

2. What is innovative about MOOCs?

Openness

- ✗ Prerequisites and admission criteria
- ✗ Being able to attend classes during specific hours
- ✗ Being able to go to a specific place to attend classes
- ✗ Need to register at a university and to pay tuition fees

2. What is innovative about MOOCs?

Openness

Micro-credentials approach

‘Micro-credential’ means the record of the learning outcomes that a learner has acquired following **a small volume of learning**. These learning outcomes will have been assessed against transparent and clearly defined criteria. (…) Micro-credentials are owned by the learner, can be shared and are portable. **They may be stand-alone or combined into larger credentials.**

Council of Europe Recommendation on a European approach to micro-credentials for lifelong learning and employability (June 6, 2022)

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3. The MOOC LOUVAIN XPERIENCE in short

- Started in 2013
- Partnership with the global consortium EdX (US based)
- 43 online courses on edX.org
- Around 80 teaching staff involved
- Around 6000 UCLouvain students learning with a UCLouvain MOOC each year

https://uclouvain.be/en/digital-university/moocs

MOOCs allowed us to experiment with

- Instructional design of online courses
- Blended learning classes (for UCLouvain students and professors)
- MicroMasters programs
- Virtual exchanges with partner universities

VEP
Virtual Exchange Program
Access to online education for credits
from top universities around the globe

A simple idea as a starting point

EMOOCs 2016 European MOOCs Stakeholders Summit

« We all have MOOCs.
Let’s share them to our students. »

A 2017-2022 experimentation

https://vep-online.org/

1. Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), CH, initiator
2. TU Delft, NL
3. Leiden University, NL
4. Wagenigen University, NL
5. UCLouvain, BE
6. Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, ES
7. Sorbonne Université, FR

How it works?

LEARN ONLINE AT HOST
HOME UNIVERSITY
HOST UNIVERSITY
GET CREDITS AT HOME
PROVIDES STUDY EXPERIENCE

How it works?

- Shared catalogue of online courses
- Student picks a course to be added to their annual programme
- Course is online but exam is on-campus

How it works? Lightened Erasmus exchange

- Outgoing student is enrolled as a virtual student at Host for that specific course
- No cost
- No travel
- Transcript sent by Host to Home

What we learned

- Students like it – attractive idea
- Simple idea but very difficult implementation!
  - What’s an attractive VEP catalog?
    - Redundand or rare courses?
    - General or specific topics?
    - English or local language?
  - Many unformal barriers to take an online credit-bearing course in another university
  - Tutoring virtual students is needed

5. Your turn – Discussion groups

- **Groups 1 and 2:**
  Explore and discuss two edX MicroMasters programmes: What innovation do they bring?

- **Groups 3 and 4:**
  Explore and discuss the RIT personalised online master that recognises all edX MicroMasters programmes as credit pathway

Instructions and questions

https://bit.ly/ExploreMOOCs