

HERE Technical  
Assistance Mission

# Build a national platform for MOOCs: "Implementation, accreditation and quality assurance"

This Technical Assistance report on Tunisia was prepared by the staff team of Tunisia NEO. It is based on the information available at the time of the TAM on 03 July 2019 in Tunisia science city, by the international expert Professor Mark Brown

# Build a national platform for MOOCs: "Implementation, accreditation and quality assurance"

## Introduction

The Adoption of a digital learning remains an issue to be discussed.

“With the coming of the New Media, the need for print on paper will rapidly diminish. The day will soon arrive when the world’s literature will be available from The Automatic Library at the mere pressing of a button” (Uzanne, 1994; cited in McFarlane, 1997, p.173).

Mostly, after each promise to digitize education we see:

- Broken promises
- Competing digital futures
- Need to Build a new digital cultures

‘Technological developments are unavoidably linked to broader social imaginaries: our ideas about the role of technology in education are shaped and reshaped by our ideas about what constitutes the good society’ (Morgan, 2013, p.6).

The solution is to build new digital cultures. This issues was addressed in the TAM: “Build a National Platform for MOOCs: Implementation, accreditation and quality assurance”.

The aim of this TAM was to reflect the digital learning, the approaches and the main strategies for integrating a national platform for MOOCs.

The discussion was rich between teachers, university president, vice presidents, director of the Tunisia Erasmus + Office and the international expert concerning the digital learning and the development of the MOOCs platform. Some people strongly agreed and liked the idea. On the other hand, others wondered if it could be applied to their fields... This TAM was the opportunity to exchange and reflect together on the future of the digital education in Tunisia.

The first part of this TAM focused on the digitalization strategy, the second on the MOOC and the third on the quality.

## Information Related to Subject of TA Provision

In the following, the general information presented by the expert.

### Digitalization strategy

Different interest groups and stakeholders are borrowing the same ‘languages of persuasion’ to legitimize very different agenda.

Why not education?

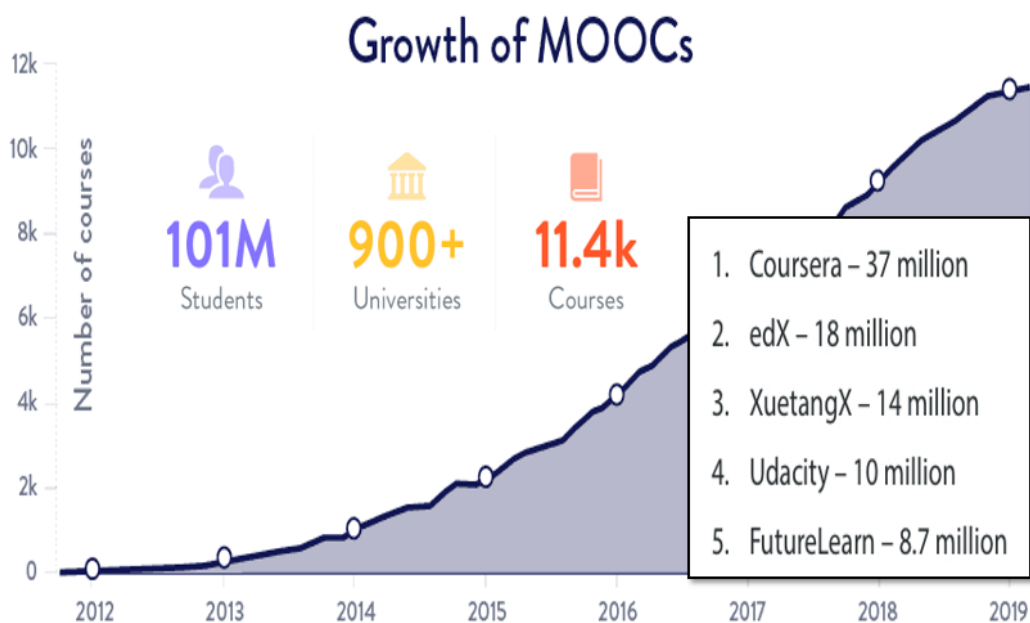
"Using new digital technology to improve education is not rocket science... it is much, much harder than that".

“In 50 years... there will be only 10 institutions in the world delivering higher education and Udacity has a shot at being one of them” (cited in Leckart, 2013, P.28).

### MOOCs

In the other hand, the following graph illustrates the phenomenal development of MOOCs in the world as the following graph illustrates.

**CLASS CENTRAL**



By the Numbers: MOOCs in 2018

Hence the need to make the best decision: to make MOOCs platform. This decision depend on the pedagogical community and the brand awareness.

The key questions to think about are:

- How technically fit for purpose is the platform?
- How pedagogically fit for purpose is the platform?
- How sustainable is the business model for the platform?
- How confident are you in the sustainability of the platform?
- How reputable are the partners associated with the platform?
- How strong is the pedagogical community supporting innovation through the platform?
- How strong is the pedagogical community supporting innovation through the platform?
- How well suited is the platform to promoting the goals of outreach and wider access to higher education for all?
- What are your measures of success? How well will the MOOC platform met your success criteria?
- What will be lost if you do nothing? What are the opportunity costs associated with the specific initiative?
- What role should governments play in shaping the future of online learning?

“We tend to overestimate the effect of a technology in the short run and underestimate the effect in the long run.” Amara’s Law.

### Information Forming the Basis of TA Advice

The expert relied on the following information to give his advice:

The best word that describes the current state of digital learning in the higher education in Tunisia is evolving mixing...

To successfully digitize you must answer the question :

What type of education system do we want new digital technology to serve?

“Digital learning should be in the service of big ideas, not as a big idea in itself”.

### Quality

To pursue the Best Practices For Online Education the following question must be discuss:

How Do You Address Quality?

*Quality frameworks*

‘You can’t just take something off the shelf and expect it to work just because it looks good’.

### *Quality cultures*

Quality depends on the raw ingredients.

Quality is NOT to Everyone’s Taste.

Quality standards are important but... Without the right quality culture then your efforts might end up.

### *Quality mindsets*

Online learning is about challenging and transforming the mindsets.

### Final TA Advice

The expert suggested to:

- Understand your drivers
- Foster an innovation ecology
- Part of wider strategic investment
- Pursue your dream to make national MOOCs platform
- Define the quality framework
- Develop the the right quality culture
- Challenging and transforming the mindsets.

### Conclusion

In the presence of 35 people (university president, vice-presidents, university professors), a broad discussion was launched. Everyone agreed on the progress in the deployment of the digitalization strategy in all universities and in the most specialties. Regarding the adoption of a MOOCs platform, some were reluctant, but agreed to consider MOOCs as a complementary tool to the existing training.

## Annex1. Program of TAM “ Build a national platform for MOOCs: "Implementation, accreditation and quality assurance"



### Building a national platform for MOOCs: Implementation, Accreditation and QA

Date, July 03, 2019

Venue: Cité des Sciences (salle des Commissions)

08.30 - 09.00	Registration
09.00 - 09.30	Opening of workshop Words by M. Adel Alimi, Coordinator of the Tunisia Erasmus+ Office
09.30 - 13.00	Plenary session
09.30 - 10.30	“HEIs in Tunisia: State of MOOCs, teaching and learning methods in Tunisia” <i>M. Mahjoub Aouni, President of Virtual University of Tunisia.</i>
10.30-11.00	“EU strategies of digital higher education supporting universities to develop online education and promote innovative teaching and learning methods using digital and online tools” Part1 <i>M. Mark Brown, Director, National Institute for Digital Learning, Glasnevin Campus Dublin City University, Dublin Republic of Ireland</i>
11.00 - 11.30	Coffee break
11.30 - 12.30	“EU strategies of digital higher education supporting universities to develop online education and promote innovative teaching and learning methods using digital and online tools” Part2 <i>M. Mark Brown, Director, National Institute for Digital Learning, Glasnevin Campus Dublin City University, Dublin Republic of Ireland</i>
12.30-13.00	Discussion
13.00 - 14.00	Lunch
14.00 - 16.15	2 <sup>nd</sup> Working session
14.00 - 14.30	“Presentation on “TUMOOC and perspectives” <i>M. Mahjoub Aouni, President of Virtual University of Tunisia.</i>

**14.30 – 15.00** **Best practices for efficient online education and innovative teaching and learning methods**

*M. Mark Brown, Director, National Institute for Digital Learning, Glasnevin Campus  
Dublin City University, Dublin Republic of Ireland*

**15.00 – 15.30** **“Guidelines for Quality Assurance and Accreditation of MOOCs in Tunisia**

*M. , Virtual University of Tunisia.*

**15.30-16.00**

**Discussion**

**Topic: Building a national Tunisian platform for MOOCs: Implementation, Accreditation and QA**

**Panelists** M. Mark Brown, Director, National Institute for Digital Learning.  
M. Adel Alimi, Coordinator of the Tunisia Erasmus+ Office  
M. Mahjoub Aouni, President of Virtual University of Tunisia

**Moderator** Ms. Arfaoui Rafiaa, Director at MERS

**16.00 – 16.15** **Wrap-up and closing session by:**  
M. Adel Alimi, Coordinator of the Tunisia Erasmus+ Office  
M. Mahjoub Aouni, President of Virtual University of Tunisia  
M. Mark Brown, Director, National Institute for Digital Learning