Expert Workshop for Quality Assurance in Cross-Border Higher Education
UNESCO Paris,
16 December 2013

Are MOOCs cross-border higher education and does their quality matter?

Stamenka Uvalić-Trumbić
Learners everywhere!
CBHE definition:

“Cross-border higher education (...) encompasses a wide range of modalities, in a continuum from face-to-face to distance learning (using a range of technologies including eLearning).”
What is a MOOC?

Massive Open Online Course
OER

MOOCs
educational materials that may be freely accessed, reused, modified and shared
World Congress on
Open Educational Resources
Paris – June 20-22 – 2012

The Paris Declaration
MOOCs began in Canada

University of Manitoba

Connectivism & Connective Knowledge

25 students on campus

2,300 public - free
Course x6002 Circuits and Electronics

155,000 registrations
23,000 tried first test
9,000 passed mid-term
7157 passed = < 5%
The herd instinct to Mooc!
What is higher education?
MOOCs

A shake-out in 2014?
M O O C – Every letter is now negotiable!
MOOCs ventures outside North America
MOOCs a new form of neocolonialism?

Philip Altbach
Many learners in the first MOOCs already had degrees.
If Harvard is going online it must be OK!
The unbundling of higher education
American Council on Education (ACE): credits for MOOCs

Educational Testing Service (ETS): tests for MOOCs
BAD NEWS

• No credit for MOOCs

• External QA: no interest in MOOCs
GOOD NEWS

Flexibility allows for innovation
POST-TRADITIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION
Post-traditional HE Trends:

• Shorter courses
Post-traditional HE Trends:

• New awards
what are OPEN BADGES?

Learning today happens everywhere. But it's often difficult to get recognition for skills and achievements that happen online or out of school. Mozilla Open Badges helps solve that problem, making it easy for any organization to issue, manage and display digital badges across the web.
Post-traditional HE Trends:

• Partnerships
Academic Partnerships
We assist leading universities around the world in the development and marketing of their online degree programs

Transforming Higher Education for the 21st Century
New trends in higher education

What about quality?
New quality tools for post-traditional higher education

• MOOCs
• Competency-based education
• Assessment of Prior Learning
• Open Educational Resources…
Post-traditional higher education
CHEA QUALITY PLATFORM

• Review performance and effectiveness of post-traditional
• Review against primary purpose: education towards a degree or not
• Success of providing student learning and assessment of learning outcomes
• Review by peers
• Successful completion – “Quality Platform Provider”
Conclusion

- MOOCs are not a traditional form of cross-border higher education
- QA frameworks need to adapt to MOOCs & post-traditional HE
The unbundling of quality assurance
THANK YOU

suvalictrumbic@gmail.com  
stamenka@chea.org  
stamenka@detaoma.com  

De Tao Masters Academy, Beijing  
CHEA, Washington