

# PRELIMINARY SCIENTIFIC REPORT

regarding the implementation of the project

**„Innovative development and implementation of MOOCs in higher education”**

between October-December 2015  
 PN-II-RU-TE-2014-4-2040

Project manager: Assistant professor Gabriela Grosseck, PhD  
 Host institution: West University from Timișoara (WUT)

## I. PROJECT MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY

After signing the contract (no. 285 from 01. 10. 2015), as project manager, I started the procedure of recruiting members (a PhD candidate and a senior researcher) from outside WUT, by posting on dedicated sites, both in Romanian and in English.



The screenshot shows the website interface for jobs.edu.ro. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'Anunțuri', 'Despre', 'Ajutor', 'Informații', and 'Contact'. Below this is a banner for ANCS (Autoritatea Națională pentru Cercetare Științifică) and the Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports. The main content area features a table of recruitment ads. On the left, there is a sidebar with 'Administrare' options for Gabriela Grosseck and 'Ultimele anunturi' section.

Titlu anunt	Descriere	Expira la	Document	Detalii	Status
<b>Recrutare cercetator postdoctoral</b>	In cadrul proiectului PN-II-RU-TE-2014-4-2040 este deschisa o pozitie de cercetator postdoctoral...	2015-11-09	↓ Recrutare_...	modifică	✓
<b>Recrutare asistent de cercetare - doctorand</b>	In cadrul proiectului PN-II-RU-TE-2014-4-2040 este deschisa o pozitie de asistent de cercetare - doctorand....	2015-11-09	↓ Recrutare_...	modifică	✓

Fig. no. 1 Recruitment ads in Romanian on jobs.edu.ro

Welcome Gabi!

Logon success.

Your latest Job Vacancies  
You published 2 Job Vacancies

Add a Job Vacancy

Date / Status	Job	Success Rate	Actions
03/11/2015 Active	Postdoctoral Researcher	impression: 3078 click: 1%	<a href="#">Edit</a> <a href="#">Copy</a> <a href="#">Close</a> <a href="#">Preview</a> <a href="#">Delete</a>
03/11/2015 Old	PhD Research Student	impression: 661 click: 9%	<a href="#">Edit</a> <a href="#">Copy</a> <a href="#">Close</a> <a href="#">Preview</a> <a href="#">Delete</a>

All my Job Vacancies [View your jobs RSS file](#)

We are establishing new collaborations with other job platforms: as a result, all jobs published on EURAXESS Jobs are made available also there, and viceversa. This is an excellent opportunity to further enhance your visibility and enable your job offer to reach a larger audience.

Should you wish not to benefit from this opportunity, please go to the section "Organisation's data" (listed here on the left hand side) and modify the option.

**Success rate legend:**  
**Impressions:** how many times a job's/fellowship's summary is listed among others in the search results of any kind;  
**Clicks:** how many times the job's/fellowship's summary is clicked to show full details;  
**Interest:** how many times the box "Application details" has been clicked in the details' page.

Need help?  
[How to use your account](#)

Quality Assurance  
[Read and sign the quality commitment](#)

Services Centres  
 If you need help and assistance to publish a

Fig. nr. 2 Recruitment ads in English on euroaxess.ro

The Human Resources Department hired the members of the project team. Thus, team members who belong to the West University from Timișoara staff were hired immediately, and the others after the public competition held on 10 November 2015.

Meanwhile, I submitted to the Public Acquisitions Department from WUT the necessary documents for the project's logistics covering the 2015 period.

The whole project management activity, as well as communication between team members, is carried out on the Asana platform, a free desktop and mobile application for task management. On Asana we can see: who completes each task, how long does each task take, what stage of the project are we in, etc. (see Fig. no. 3).

asana

MY TASKS MY INBOX

Search

Personal Projects

NOVAMOOC

List Conversations Calendar Progress Files

Shared with members

Add Task

View: Incomplete Tasks

Activitati specifice de management proiect Sep 29, 2017

Digital NOVAMOOC:

Lista de conferinte / evenimente / workshopuri Sep 29, 2017

Etapa I:

I.1. Revizuirea literaturii de specialitate cu privire la MC Feb 29, 2016

I.2. Vizite de documentare la universități din SUA și Ca Mar 31, 2016

I.3. Lansarea CALL for PAPERS pentru numărul 1 Revista de Inform

I.4. Analiza legislației românești și europene cu privire la certificări

I.5. Editarea și publicarea numărului 1 (seria nouă) din Revista de Inform

I.6. Elaborarea specificațiilor tehnice pentru platforma web

Etapa II:

NOVAMOOC

Activitati specifice de management proiect

tot ceea ce tine de managementul proiectului

Contract semnat de UEFISCDI.pdf

Gabriela Grosseck created task. Nov 2

Gabriela Grosseck added to NOVAMOOC. Nov 2

Gabriela Grosseck assigned to you. Nov 2

Gabriela Grosseck changed the due date to September 29. Nov 2

Gabriela Grosseck attached Nov 3 at 5:51pm

Contract semnat de UEFISCDI.pdf

Write a comment...

Unfollow Task

Fig. no. 3 Project management application

## II. RESEARCH ACTIVITY

The research activity for 2015 included both scientific study, and dissemination of results.

Consequently, when we submitted the evaluation application form, we had already carried out a short survey about the current situation of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) in Romania. We analyzed the data thus collected in a paper that we presented during the „*International Conference on Virtual Learning*” (ICVL 2015), which took place in Timișoara between 30-31 October 2015. The conference is indexed in Conference Proceedings Citation Index (ISI Proceedings, access via Web of Science). The paper was published in the conference volume.

Grosseck, G. & Malița, L. (2015). Do you MOOC? An exploratory view for Romanian academic landscape. In *Proceedings of ICVL - International Conference on Virtual Learning (ICVL2015)*, Timișoara, 31 October 2015, pp. 388-392, ISSN 1844 – 8933.

Fig. no. 4 Reference for the paper published in the ICVL 2015 conference volume

I should mention that, my intention was to capitalize quickly and efficiently on the results of the survey, so I submitted the text for evaluation as soon as the ICVL conference call for papers was out (at the beginning of 2015). The delay caused by this evaluation process resulted in the paper being accepted before signing the project’s contract. Because the conference volume had already been published at the beginning of October, it was impossible for me to edit the final version of the manuscript and to add in the *Acknowledgements* section the project’s code PN-II-RU-TE-2014-4-2040. This was included only in the electronic presentation. The co-author of the paper is part of the project team.

Meanwhile, together with the team members, I participated in three other conferences, namely:

- The Fourth National Conference of Adult Education, „Stimulating participation of adults in education. Perspectives on the implementation of the national lifelong learning strategy”, Timișoara, Romania, 20–21 November 2015, with the paper *The challenge of MOOC in adult education* (see the conference agenda <http://www.irea.ro/agenda-conferintei.html>).

- The final Conference of the project „UNIVERSITARIA – școală de didactică universitară și cercetare științifică avansată”, West University from Timișoara, 20-23 November 2015, with the paper *Innovative development and implementation of MOOCs in higher education*.

- The International conference „WOW! Europe embraces MOOCs”, Rome, Italia, 30 November 2015, with the paper *The MOOCs under microscope: Romanian students' insights* (see the conference agenda [http://home.eadtu.eu/images/News/Home\\_Conference\\_2015\\_Final\\_Programme.pdf](http://home.eadtu.eu/images/News/Home_Conference_2015_Final_Programme.pdf)).

At the time of writing this report, we are still working on the full texts of the above mentioned papers, so only the digital presentations are available.

Moreover, for research and disseminations purposes, team members took part in the following webinars:

1. *OEE Tour*: the online seminar that took place on 26 October and was organized by the project’s team members together with *Open Education Europe* platform, during the OEE Tour <http://www.openeducationeuropa.eu/en/node/173294>. The NOVAMOOC project was briefly presented during the online meeting that had Maria Perifanou (from OEE) as speaker.

Perifanou informed participants about the priorities and projects connected to OER and MOOCs in Europe.

**Open Education Europa**  
The gateway to European innovative learning

### OEE Tour: Connecting Education Pioneers across Europe

Check out below the **OEE Tour programme** for September and October 2015!

- Ibiza, SP (Online): 10 SEP 2015
- Athens, GR (F2F): 19 SEP 2015
- London, UK (F2F): 29 SEP 2015
- Kavala, GR (F2F): 24 OCT 2015
- Timisoara, RO (Online): 26 OCT 2015
- Valletta, ML (F2F): 29 OCT 2015

The team of Open Education Europa portal **inaugurates a new initiative: the Open Education Europa Tour**; Building the **Open Network of European Education Pioneers** via a series of open interactive workshops/webinars that will take place online or face to face in different parts of Europe.

**Author:** Maria Perifanou

**Visits:** 1457 Visits

**Publication Date:** 17 September 2015

**Blog type:** Calls & Announcements

Fig. no. 5 OEE Tour webinar

2. The webinar *Can we talk about „European” MOOCs?*, organized during the EMMA (European Multiple MOOC Aggregator) project <http://project.europeanmoocs.eu/project/get-involved/webinar-series/can-we-talk-about-european-moocs>, analyzed the particular characteristics and opportunities of European MOOCs.

Spread - EMMA webinar - Can we talk about "European" MOOCs (671310012) - Google Chrome

https://eu42.spread.com/c/671310012/spread/100/panel#ok

spread Meeting Settings Help

Title: EMMA webinar - Can we talk about "European" MOOCs

Video conference Presentation

Darco Jansen (EADTU)

Participants

- Ahmed IMLOUL
- Alberto Nantiat
- Alexandra UB
- Andrea Lasagni
- Angela Rees
- Anna
- Annette
- CarmenHolotescu

EADTU

European Union  
Lifelong Learning Programme

#### Reflections on MOOCs

- Most dominant objective in all studies is to increase institutional visibility and using MOOCs for reputation reasons.
- In the US using MOOCs for student recruitment is seen as the most important primary objective of institutions, while in Europe it is rather to reach new students and creating flexible learning opportunities
- Pedagogical approach in a social context
  - equity, inclusion, social mobility
  - intercreativity and interculturality

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF DISTANCE TEACHING UNIVERSITIES

Darco Jansen

Fig. no. 6 EMMA webinar

On the other hand, in order to determine the need for MOOCs in the Romanian academic environment, we have initiated a survey addressed to students. This is still open until 15 December.



**Chestionar de opinie**

Universitatea de Vest din Timișoara este interesată de opiniile studenților privind cursurile online. De aceea, te invităm să răspunzi la câteva întrebări cu privire la cursurile online în ideea implementării lor în universitățile din România.

Nu există răspunsuri corecte sau greșite. Te rugăm să alegi varianta de răspuns care ți se potrivește cel mai bine sau cu care ești de acord în cea mai mare măsură. Completarea chestionarului este opțională și anonimă. Rezultatele acestuia sunt confidențiale și vor fi utilizate exclusiv pentru analize statistice.

Recomandăm ca atunci când completezi acest chestionar să ai în vedere faptul că scopul unui curs online este acela de dezvoltare competențe profesionale și/sau personale.

**\*Obligatoriu**

**Ai auzit de sintagma “cursuri online”?** \*

Da

Nu

Continuați »

10% completat

Un produs Google Forms

Acest formular a fost creat în domeniul Universitatea de Vest din Timisoara .  
Raportați un abuz - Condiții de utilizare - Condiții suplimentare

Fig. No. 7 Survey addressed to students. Accessible at:  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1aKBkRpnxVuLpzbQyIgoF\\_Yhjpl5e33QqOOcmahfVPO8/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1aKBkRpnxVuLpzbQyIgoF_Yhjpl5e33QqOOcmahfVPO8/viewform).

For 2016, we intend to write at least two scientific papers that will be sent for review and publication, alongside the ones I already mentioned and described above and that will be finalized soon.

With the aim of **promoting and disseminating the project's results**, we have designed the website that can be accessed at: <http://novamooc.uvt.ro>. The information is only available in Romanian at the moment, but we are working on an English version that should be available by the end of the year. The project's website will be constantly updated.

The collaborative list of articles, studies, projects, and platforms analyzed by team members for research purposes, can be found at: <http://delicious.com/tag/novamooc>.

**In conclusion**, we consider that we achieved the indicators for the year 2015.

Project manager,  
Assoc. prof. Gabriela Grosseck, PhD

