

SCIENTIFIC REPORT

regarding the implementation of the project

„Innovative development and implementation of MOOCs in higher education”

PN-II-RU-TE-2014-4-2040

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

JANUARY-DECEMBER 2017

The activities for 2017 can be divided into three main categories: activities focused on the development of an international research network, activities focused on scientific studies and dissemination of results, activities focused on MOOC.

A. ACTIVITIES FOCUSED ON DEVELOPMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH NETWORK

Between April 27 - 28, 2017, the project team represented by Gabriela Grosseck, Carmen Holotescu, Ramona Bran, Laurentiu Tiru and Laura Malita took part on the 13th International Scientific Conference "eLearning and Software for Education", else2017 (<http://elseconference.eu>), Bucharest. This is an annual event that is recognised to bring together researcher from across the globe, interested in topics such as MOOCs and OER, among others. During this event we were participated by both presenting project's results and activities and also by organising a workshop on the MOOCs' topics. By participating to the above-mentioned conference, we were enlarged the professional network of people interested in such topics and also, we were disseminated through a global interested audience our main research results, developed during the project lifespan. With some of the researchers we were already established punctual cooperation, such as common research materials, joint conferences (one of them organised through the NOVAMOOC project), further projects etc.

Between 5th and 14th of May 2017, Gabriela Grosseck and Laura Malita (the project coordinator and one of the project researcher) visited the Special Administrative Regions of China (Macau & Hong Kong), respectively the following educational institutions: The Open University of Hong Kong (OUHK), The City University of Hong Kong and The University of Hong Kong. Still, the goal of the mobility was multiple: research visits at prestigious universities from the above-mentioned cities, bilateral discussions about the challenges related to the implementation and the development of MOOC courses in the two regions/cities, the problems

related to OER and digital literacy and the participation to the ICSEP 2017 conference (4th International Conference on Society, Education and Psychology, <http://www.icsep.org/>). During their visit the two team project members had the opportunity to interact and discuss with all the persons they had planned meetings way before, but even with others, invited by their respective staff.

At Open University of Hong Kong with prof Li Kam Cheong (and with other meeting participants from OUHK,) the focus of the discussions was the state of the art regarding the implementing of MOOCs by the two universities, what were the problems encountered, what were the related solutions provided and if some of them could be exported/imported at West University of Timisoara for the project. Likewise, both parties have agreed to further collaborations, both for different related project research, but mainly through research activities like publishing papers, participating to conferences etc. that cover common interesting research areas like digital literacy, learning analytics, open educational resources, big data etc. More than that, for the September conference that was organized at West University of Timisoara associated with the project's dissemination activities, the colleagues from Open University of Hong Kong were interested to contribute with presentations along one of the possible research topics mentioned above.

With Dr. Crusher Wong and also the CityU MOOC Working Group chairperson, the focus of the discussion was related to the sharing of CityU's experiences of preparing and implementing of MOOCs. Likewise, we discussed the technical aspects of organizing MOOC courses, comparing the features of different MOOC platforms like EdX, Coursera and FutureLearn. They also shared with us what were the discussions with the platforms EdX & Coursera and what was the reason for choosing Future Learn. Due to the fact that Future Learn has recently introduced new rules, CityU has starting to find new alternatives that possibly support Chinese interface. Likewise, they were presenting the inside statistics available for Future Learn courses and how they are using such (big) data for learning analytics, underlying both positive aspects and less positive features of this platform. We were positively impress by their availability of sharing with us unpublished official statistics.

With Professor Kajimoto from The University of Hong Kong the discussions were focussed on his experiences as one of the successful promoter of MOOC courses on both platforms Coursera and EdX. He also gave us advices regarding other platforms which they are taking into consideration, like newly features introduced by Facebook. Likewise, he also showed us which kind of internal statistics Coursera and EdX are providing to the instructors, which kind of reports and how could they potentially be used for learning analytics and/or other purposes. He also presents us the production studio, underlying which kind of roles his team is supposed to undertake. Besides, we were visiting the multimedia team for the other MOOCs offered by The University of Hong Kong, coordinated by Louie Cheng. They show us which programs they are using, how are they preparing and producing content for the MOOCs.

Based on the valuable experiences shared & ideas collected, we reached the envisaged goals related to the project, for these activities. More concretely, by bonding prospective research collaborations, research experiences, and receiving lot of practical advices related to the development of different MOOCs (for both teachers and students from pre-university and university level), we revised the pilot phase of the MOOC concerning which platform to choose and how the content of the MOOC to be developed and promoted, which is one of the main goal of the project. We also agreed for further collaborations and discussions, materialised through common projects, publishing common research materials and academic papers.

In addition to that, we were participated to the 4th International Conference on Society, Education and Psychology (<http://www.icsep.org/>), 6-8 May 2017, by presenting the accepted paper MOOCS for Teachers' Professional Development - A university Challenge?, co-authors Laura Malița, Laurențiu Gabriel Țăru and Gabriela Grosseck and also the poster Identifying students' profile in MOOCs – a social media analysis, co-authors Alexandru Topirceanu and Gabriela Grosseck. Contact persons for those related activities were Jack T. Feng and prof. dr. Robert J. Taormina, University of Macau.

Between 26th of July 2017 and 6th of August 2017 Gabriela Grosseck and Laura Malita (the project coordinator and one of the project researcher) visited Canada, respectively Toronto (26th -1st of July/August, 2017) and Montreal (1st -6th of August 2017). The goal of the mobility was multiple: research visits at prestigious universities from the above mentioned cities and the participation to the EduTeach 2017 conference (2nd International Conference on Advances in Education, Teaching & Technology 2017, "Global Education through technology – Challenges, issues and trends" <http://educationconference.info/>).

The research visits were developed such as:

- in Toronto at 2nd International Conference on Advances in Education, Teaching & Technology 2017, "Global Education through technology – Challenges, issues and trends", <http://educationconference.info/>, 29-31 of July 2017, presentation of accepted paper Fostering Teachers' Professional Development Through, co-authors Laura Malița, Gabriela Grosseck and Laurențiu Gabriel Țăru. The University of Toronto, regarding their experiences in developing MOOCs at the University of Toronto (<http://guides.library.utoronto.ca/c.php?g=448614&p=3092283>), as one of the main contributors worldwide of the theme, as well as the country where it was developed the first MOOC and where distance/online education is a core part of their education programmes.
- in Montreal at The McGill University, one of the top university in Canada that has considerable experiences in developing and running MOOCs (<http://mcgilltribune.com/moocs/>) already since 2011, and encountered more than 6 million participants.

Both universities have considerable experiences in long-time distance online education and running/developing MOOCs, on different areas and with different students, including international ones. This was the reason for visiting both universities, and such benefiting from a broader perspective, necessary for the last phases of the project, including the sustainability. Apart from general principles and issues regarding MOOCs (like MOOCs providers, case studies, best practices, challenges and certifications, OER, mixing MOOCs through other traditional courses etc.), 2 courses were also interested for the future research activities and sustainability of the project: "Social Learning for Social Impact" and "MOOCs for Library and Librarians". Through such examples of courses, we would address librarian as future MOOCs' trainers and also will open to our society and community in order to offer them courses that are fitting their need as proper digital literate citizens.

After the mobility in the two major important cities/universities in Canada (Toronto and Montreal) we consider to reach the envisaged goals related to the project, for these activities, by research experiences, and receiving lot of ideas regarding future exploitations of MOOCs beyond what we were covered through the current project activities (besides for both teachers and students from pre-university and university level, which is the main target group of the project).

From the multicultural perspective, we collected materials (pictures, videos, online and offline resources such flyers and guides, but even other promotional materials), some of them in online

format, which are presenting how the Canadian society is supporting and perpetuating the impulse for education and auto-education, the civic spirit, the will for education no matter form where and when, the age or professional status of students.

Between 5 and 9 September 2017, Alexandru Topirceanu was delegated in Marseille (France), and the purpose of the visit was twofold: presenting two papers at the International Knowledge-Based and Intelligent Information & Engineering Systems conference (KES), as well as attending plenary discussions on topics dedicated to e-Learning and online courses. The conference took place at the campus of Aix-Marseille University and the scientific topics which were openly debated were: Emerging intelligent technologies - eLearning, web mining machine learning, theoretical foundations of intelligent systems: theory, algorithms and methods and intelligent applications. The papers presented are titled: “Gamified learning: A role-playing approach to increase student in-class motivation” and “Decision tree learning used for the classification of student archetypes in online courses”.

The first paper discusses the weak point of most classic educational systems, namely the constant decreasing motivation it gives students - individuals who have grown and are embedded in many virtual realities from where they draw the needed intrinsic motivation and energy. To overcome this limitation, we propose a method which simplifies the educational and grading systems both in modern schools and universities, with a strong applicability in MOOC courses. It relies on the fundamental aspects of the theory of Gamification, namely bringing motivational elements from (video) games into non-game contexts.

The second paper introduces an original set of student profiles specific to online courses, and it does so by means of data mining and supervised learning. We use the responses from an online questionnaire to gather detailed opinion from 632 students from Romania regarding the advantages and disadvantages of MOOCs, as well as the reasons for not joining online courses. Based on the extracted statistics, we present six decision trees for classifying the finalization and participation rates of online courses based on the students' individual traits.

Following the conference visit, he succeeded in meeting the objectives proposed by the NOVAMOOC project to support two scientific papers to be indexed by ISI / WoS in the Elsevier Volume of Computer Science. There were also established some new links to possible future research collaboration, as well as many practical tips for designing/organizing and most of all grading participants in a MOOC course.

Between 8-9 September 2017 the “New Trends and Perspectives in Open Education” International Conference took place in Timisoara, at West University of Timisoara. The project main event brings together researchers from different countries and continents. Some of the participants were participated in persons, but due to the main difficulties of covering travel expenses from different continents, most of the participants from outside Europe participated through the virtual presentations. Still they had the opportunity to attend online the conference sessions and to interact with the participants and such we were able to organize a conference that both confirmed the already established professional network colleagues but also enlarged these academic relationships.

As organizers of this event we were participated by both presenting project's results and activities and also by organising a workshop on the MOOCs' topics. Thus, besides the enlargement of the professional network of people interested in such topics, we were disseminated through a global interested audience our main research results, developed during

the project lifespan. We also established further research collaborations, respectively through research papers and materials and also through research projects.

Between 10-13 September 2017 Alexandru Topirceanu was delegated in Duisburg (Germany), and the purpose of the visit was multiple: (i) participation at the 4th European Network Intelligence Conference (ENIC) international conference, (ii) participation in plenary discussions themes dedicated to social media analysis, with interdisciplinary applicability, such as performance metrics in open education (MOOCs linked), (iii) and participation as a member of the PC (program committee) at the conference.

The conference took place at the University of Duisburg-Essen campus and the conference topics were: centralities and influence, diffusion of knowledge and information, algorithms and applications, social media content analysis.

The presented paper is entitled "Strength of Nations: A case study on the estimation of the influence of leading countries using social media analysis". The paper introduces four possible measures for quantifying the strength of a nation (Romania underlined), and discusses the advantages for each of them in turn. We show that considering weighted in- and out-degree offers the most intuitive results in terms of estimating how much influence a country dissipates over other countries. The methodology discussed here may benefit further disciplines such as social sciences and communication studies, open education and MOOCs, which often work with more qualitative approaches.

Following the conference visit, he succeeded in meeting the objectives proposed by the NOVAMOOC project to support a scientific paper to be indexed ISI / WoS in Springer Lecture Notes in Social Networks. There were also established some new ties to possible future research collaboration, as well as getting a number of practical tips for developing an estimate of the MOOC completion rate.

Between 18th and 28th of September 2017, Gabriela Grosseck and Laura Malita visited two of the most representative countries from Asia (respectively Malaysia and Singapore), regarding online courses and OERs. The goal of the visit was multiple as it was represented by a previously established meeting at The Open Learning Center in Kuala Lumpur and the participation to the eEL 2017 conference (7th International Conference on Education and e-Learning, 2017, <http://www.e-learningedu.org/>).

The research visits were developed such as:

- in Kuala Lumpur at The Open Learning, Kuala Lumpur, regarding their experiences in developing MOOCs at national level (<https://www.openlearning.com/malaysiamoocs>), as one of the main contributors worldwide of the theme, as well as the first country to give credit recognition for MOOCs.
- in Singapore at 7th International Conference on Education and e-Learning, 2017, <http://www.e-learningedu.org/>, 25-26 of September 2017, presentation of accepted paper Big Data, Moocs, Learning Analytics And Teachers' Professional Development, co-authors Laura Malita, Gabriela Grosseck and Madalin Bunoiu.

The Malaysia is recognised worldwide as the first country that create a platform to award credit recognition and transfer for Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs). Moreover, by being supported by their Higher Education Minister, all national public institutions should develop and run MOOCs through this platform, who was developed in partnership with Australia.

Moreover, the OpenLearning platform is a social learning platform that enables anyone, anywhere to build engaging MOOCs that create interactive and empowering learning experiences. Therefore, their OpenLearning platform is revolutionising online teaching and learning by being both the Learning Environment and the Student Hangout. Nowadays, through the platform, there were running more than 2500 courses, with more than 10.000 educators (no matter of their subjects) and more than 300.000 students.

Educators love running courses through the platform, because learners are engaged, intrinsically motivated and productive. Likewise, students love doing courses through the platform because they are thought in their languages, they can interact with their peers and teachers and that the learning become more motivational.

Those were the reasons for visiting the institution, discussing with the colleagues Adam Brimo, Erica Cheong, Marsyitah Ismail and Razduwan Bin about their experiences from a broader perspective, what could be used in order to create policy recommendation for MOOCs recognition in Romania, possibility of further collaboration and even of creating a partnership in order to use their platform.

By participating to the conference, we were benefiting by expanding the professional network, establishing further way of collaboration with associate professor Chen Wenli, Learning Sciences and Technology (LST) Academic Group at the National Institute of Education (NIE), Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (NTU), with Nina Hansopaheluwakan, from University of Canberra, Australia and with Nicole Wang from Pennsylvania State University, USA.

After the mobility in the two major important cities/educational institutions in Malaysian and Singapore (respectively Kuala Lumpur & Singapore) we consider to reach the envisaged goals related to the project, for these activities, by research experiences, and receiving lot of ideas regarding future exploitations of MOOCs beyond what we were covered through the current project activities (besides for both teachers and students from pre-university and university level, which is the main target group of the project). Therefore, we will work in the next period even beyond the project lifespan for persuading the national responsible institutions for recognition of such courses and therefore for gaining credits through MOOCs. We will provide them examples as well as policies' recommendations based on what we were discussed with the Asian colleagues.

For research purposes, team members took also part in several scientific events and/or attended MOOCs, in order to develop skills and competencies, both at technical and pedagogical level.

- OER Congress 2017, <http://www.oercongress.org/>
- Nature MasterClass: Scientific Writing and Publishing, Learn from Nature Journal Editors <https://masterclasses.nature.com/courses/28>
- IEEE Foundations to Open Education and OERs repositories, <https://courses.edx.org/courses/course-v1:IEEEEx+FOE01.x+3T2017/course/>

B. ACTIVITIES FOCUSED ON SCIENTIFIC STUDIES AND DISSEMINATION OF RESULTS

At the end of this year, I can report the following research papers written by the team members (sometimes in collaboration with other researchers), in which the project is mentioned in the Acknowledgements section:

- Bogdan R., Grosseck, G., Andone, D., Holotescu, C., (2017), How Moocs Are Being Used For Corporate Training?, Volume “Could technology support learning efficiency?” Proceedings of the 13th International Scientific Conference "eLearning and Software for Education" Bucharest, April 27 - 28, 2017 DOI: 10.12753/2066-026X-17-121
- Carmen Holotescu, Liliana-Olivia Gotiu Lucaciu, Diana Andone, Liliana Cismariu, Gabriela Grosseck, Titus Slavici. (2017). Entrepreneurship Learning Ecosystem for Smart Cities through MOOCs. BRAIN. Broad Research in Artificial Intelligence and Neurosciences, Vol. 8(2), ISSN 2067-3957 / E-ISSN 2067-8177. (ISI Journal)
- Topirceanu A., (2017) Gamified learning: A role-playing approach to increase student in-class motivation, Volume Knowledge-Based and Intelligent Information & Engineering Systems: Proceedings of the 21st International Conference KES 2017: Knowledge-Based and Intelligent Information & Engineering Systems, ISSN: 1877-0509
- Topirceanu A., Grosseck G., (2017) Decision tree learning used for the classification of student archetypes in online courses, Volume Knowledge-Based and Intelligent Information & Engineering Systems: Proceedings of the 21st International Conference KES 2017: Knowledge-Based and Intelligent Information & Engineering Systems, ISSN: 1877-0509
- Topirceanu A., Udrescu M., (2017) Strength of nations: A case study on estimating the influence of leading countries using social media analysis, Volume Proceeding of the 4th European Network Intelligence Conference ENIC 2017: 4th European Network Intelligence Conference, ISSN: 2190-5428
- Malita, L, Grosseck G., Tiru L. (2017). MOOCs for Teachers Professional Development – a University Challenge?, paper sent to International Journal of Information and Education Technology (IJJET), ISSN: 2010-3689, DOI: 10.18178/ijiet.2018.8.3.1040, and approved for the volume from March 2018, retrieved from <http://www.ijiet.org/vol8/1040-SE0024.pdf>.

In addition to these outcomes, the NOVAMOOC team members participated in several scientific events (conferences, workshops, webinars / for some of them as organizers, too), namely:

1. Open Education Week, 31 March 2017, Timisoara: Webinar “Open Education – concepts, tools, resources, practices”:
 - Gabriela Grosseck, Luiza Vlaicu and Ramona Bran. MOOC pentru dezvoltarea profesionala a cadrelor didactice. Experiența UVT
 - Carmen Holotescu. MOOC initiatives in Romania.
2. “E-learning and software for education” (27-28 April 2017, Bucharest). The conference is indexed in Conference Proceedings Citation Index (ISI Proceedings, access via Web of Science).
 - Laurentiu Tiru and Vlad Chiriac, MOOCs - a Solution for Improving / Enhancing Teachers' Digital Skills?

- Gabriela Grosseck and Laura Malita, NOVAMOOC Development and innovative implementation of MOOCs in Higher Education
3. 4th International Conference on Society, Education and Psychology (ICSEP 2017), 06-08 May 2017, Timisoara Romania
 - Laura Malita, Gabriela Grosseck and Laurentiu Tiru, MOOCs for Teachers Professional Development - A university challenge?
 4. “The 21st International Conference on Teaching, Education and Learning (ICTEL)” International Conference, 26-27 July 2017, Mauritius,
 - Gabriela Grosseck and Laura Malita, Is There A Relation Between Smart Cities, Moocs And Teachers’ Professional Development?
 5. EduTeach 2017, 2nd International Conference on Advances in Education, Teaching & Technology 2017, " Global Education through technology – Challenges, issues and trends " 29-31 July 2017, Toronto.
 - Laura Malita, Gabriela Grosseck and Laurentiu Tiru, – FOSTERING TEACHERS’ PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH MOOCs
 6. New Trends and Perspectives in Open Education, NOVAMOOC, 8-9 September 2017, Timisoara
 - Laura Malita Gabriela Grosseck and Madalin Bunoiu, Can we mOOC? The promises and perils for Romanian education system
 - Luiza Vlaicu and Alexandru Topirceanu, Do West University of Timisoara has students' profiles for MOOCs? (poster)
 7. GSTF EeL - 7th Annual International Conference On Education & e-Learning (EeL2017), 25-26 September 2017 Singapore.
 - Laura Malita Gabriela Grosseck and Madalin Bunoiu, Big Data, MOOCs, Learning Analytics and Teachers’ Professional Development HIGHER EDUCATION

Based on these results, I can state that I achieved all objectives regarding the publication and dissemination outcomes of this project.

C. ACTIVITIES FOCUSED ON MOOC

Based on our researches, we have developed content courses both in Romanian and English language for the following courses: “*Resurse Educationale Deschise – initiere pentru profesori*” (Open Educational Resources for teachers), “*Povestiri Digitale*” (Digital Storytelling), “*Practising English with Technology*” and “*Evaluating Fake News*”. The contents were designed to appeal to anyone without special digital prerequisites, but specially for students enrolled in our university who attend transversal disciplines and teachers from preuniversity system.

The courses are now ready for enrollments on the Teachable platform at <http://west-university-timisoara.teachable.com/>. All the modules will be open after the participants’ enrollments ends (a period of 30-45 days was established by the team project in order to achieve a significant number of participants enrolled).

This year, we also run a series of workshops within and outside WUT, with teachers from different departments, faculties and universities and organized an international conference celebrating the end of the project:

- a. 27 April 2017: 4th International Workshop on Open Education, OERs and MOOCs, co-located with the 13th eLearning and Software for Education Conference (ISI indexed), Bucharest, April 27-28 2017 (http://www.elseconference.eu/pages/view?page=open_education_open_online_courses).

The primary goal of the workshop was to bring together educational actors and stakeholders as teachers, trainers, technologists, researchers, course designers, doctoral students in the fields of new technologies, pedagogies and policies related to Open Education, Open Educational Resources (OERs) and Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) in order to share knowledge, approaches, strategies, models, solutions and applications in an educational context.

The workshop was organized by NOVAMOOC team members and had 3 sections:

- Keynote and seminar delivered and facilitated by Giles Pepler
- Open Educational Resources, chaired by Carmen Holotescu
- MOOCs, chaired by Gabriela Grosseck.

The keynote delivered by Giles Pepler from Sero UK had as topic “*Technology use and the needs of learners*”. He continued with an engaging seminar on Students’ use of technology and expectations of their learning.

During the last 2 sections of the workshop, the NOVAMOOC project results were presented by the team members.

Notes with photos and comments were sent by the NOVAMOOC team members on the project Facebook page and on their Facebook walls, a selection being presented below.



Gabriela Grosseck added 4 new photos.
27 April · 🌐

A fun and very inspired workshop with Giles Pepler. Thank you for a good quality time at #else2017.



Like Comment Share

You, Laura Malita, Bogdan Patrut and 31 others

Laura Malita with Gabriela Grosseck and 6 others at **Universitatea Politehnica Bucuresti**.
27 April · Bucharest · 🌐

Gabriela Grosseck presenting state of the art of NOVAMOOC project



Like Comment Share

Gabriela Grosseck, Teodora Daniela and 8 others

Carmen Holotescu
27 April · 🌐

Our #else2017 workshop on OERs and MOOCs will start soon. The presentation of the article co-authored with Razvan Bogdan and Huseyin Bicen - https://www.researchgate.net/publication/316076563_CURRENT_TRENDS_IN_BLENDING_UNIVERSITY_COURSES_WITH_MOOCs <https://www.slideshare.net/.../current-trends-in-blending-uni-...>



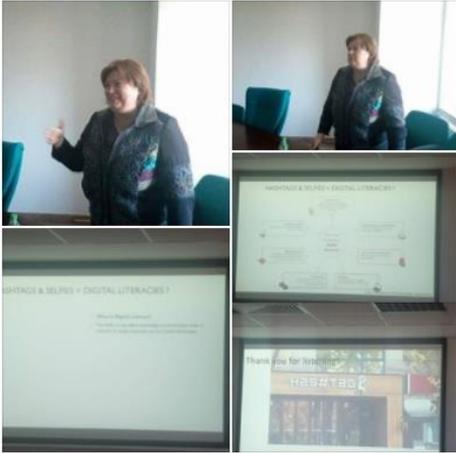
Current Trends in Blending University Courses with MOOCs
Presentation for eLSE 2017
SLIDESHARE.NET

Like Comment Share

Panagiotis Mourtzis, Livia Stefan and 19 others

Carmen Holotescu added 5 new photos.
27 April · Bucharest · 🌐

Laura Malita about the buzzwords selfies and hashtags used to foster digital literacy.



Like Comment Share

Livia Stefan, Cora Maria Petrică and 11 others



This 4th edition of the eLSE workshop was successfully organized by team project, having an important number of participants and interesting keynote, seminar and presented research papers. It was also a good opportunity to disseminate NOVAMOOC project and results.

- b. 14 July 2017 Mosnita (photos here, <https://goo.gl/vJeBaa>). The participants were teachers from WUT interested in developing a MOOC for students.

The ration of organizing the workshop: Due to the development of the current society, continuous professional development of teachers is an imperative for every educational system. Nowadays MOOCs are on a hype for educational systems, being one of the most discussed and debated university/academia/higher education topics. Still, our university is beyond other institutions in terms of both developing and formal recognizing of competences acquired through a MOOC course. This is direct related to the skepticism of opening up education toward professional development of Romanian teachers, among other factors like language barriers, inadequate infrastructure, lack of time, lack of digital competences and skills (in order to know how to work in the online learning environment) etc.

The workshop was organized by NOVAMOOC team members and had 3 sections:

- Writing and Publishing in English – why is important to have a MOOC in English
 - Future Opportunities for Funding – where to find call for projects related with Open Education
 - Designing a MOOC.
- c. 8-9 September 2017, Timisoara, *International Conference “New Trends and Perspectives in Open Education “* (https://novamooc.uvt.ro/?page_id=445). As we consider MOOCs as a sustainable initiative for professional development of Romanian teachers, the aim of this conference was to present the project results, insights and experience from team practice. There were information sessions covering different initiatives and developments linked to this field or examples of good practices related to MOOCs worldwide. We had participants from more than 10 countries:

China, Cyprus, Bulgaria, United Kingdom, Columbia, India, Russia, Republic of Moldova, Turkey etc.

The conference reached the envisaged impact as it brings together educational actors from both pre-university and university level across Romania. The conference main topics related to MOOCs attracted both practitioners but even newcomers, interested in developing and running such courses in the near future. Through discussion we analyzed the state of the art regarding the online and open education in Romania and how can we move further, by recommendation for implementing MOOC's credits, recognized by educational institutions and also employers.

The participants will act as multipliers among their professional networks and colleagues, spreading the information they gathered through the conference.

At the time of writing this report, all the digital presentations and full texts of the above mentioned issues, are available on the project's website - <http://novamooc.uvt.ro>.

The participation of the NOVAMOOC team in different events, other information regarding articles, studies, projects, or platforms analyzed by team members for research purposes, can be found on the project's Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/novamooc/>.

In conclusion, we consider that we have achieved the indicators for the year 2017.

Project manager, Assoc. prof. Gabriela Grosseck, PhD

