

# EUROPEAN AND WORLDWIDE MOOC PROJECTS

by **Fred de Vries** (Open University of the Netherlands)

Since the rise of MOOCs, grateful use has been made of national and European programmes for purposes such as elaborating educational concepts and evaluating the use and influence of MOOCs. A huge number of projects and initiatives have already been launched in Europe alone.

## **EMMA**

The EMMA project offers an aggregated overview of European MOOCs, offered in multiple languages. Large-scale pilots have been organised with innovative educational approaches. The project not only focuses on research university providers, but also students who can create their own MOOC using a toolkit.

## **MOOCKnowledge**

Together with the Institute for Prospective Technological Studies (IPTS), researchers at three research universities – of which one is the Open University of the Netherlands – are conducting a three-year longitudinal study by means of a standardised questionnaire into the long-term effects of MOOCs on, for example, the labour market.

## **OpenEDU**

This project is also the brainchild of the Institute for Prospective Technological Studies ('A Study on Strategies for Opening Up Education') and emphasises the importance of a framework for open education that pays attention to both teaching and technology in addition to accreditation and business models.

## **HOME Higher Education Online: MOOCs the European way**

This project, organised by various open universities, promotes the quality, diversity and application of OER in MOOCs. Special attention is paid to business models that could be elaborated by universities and that boost the educational quality of MOOCs. The project stems from the OpenUpEd initiative, which establishes quality requirements for MOOCs that match those set for regular education.

## **MOOCs4all**

The MOOCs4all project aims to make MOOC development even more accessible by offering practical and cost-saving tips.

The global initiative **OERu** is still going strong. OERu, the OER university, is a non-profit philanthropic initiative operating alongside the well-known commercial providers of MOOC platforms. With OERu, the openness of the education provided is a high priority.

With regard to licences, Creative Commons operates an [open policy network](#) on open-licence issues.

The [OER Worldmap](#) focuses on boosting accessibility of reusable OER. This may seem redundant, but the emphasis is usually on making teaching materials available yourself rather than using someone else's materials within educational resources such as MOOCs.

For anyone interested in keeping up to date with European developments in the field of MOOCs as part of the open education movement, the European Commission's website [OpenEducationEuropa](#), would be a good place to start.

And to keep up to date with global developments, you can also visit the Open Education Consortium's [Open Education Information Centre](#).