From Distance Universities to Universities without Distance: Engagement and social commitment at UOC

Higher Education Partnerships for Social Impact
IAU 2018 International Conference
13 – 15 November, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Nadja Gmelch
Coordinator Open Knowledge Action Plan, Head of projects – Globalization & Cooperation

Universitat Oberta
de Catalunya

Universitat Oberta de Catalunya

Engagement at UOC

"Public engagement describes the **myriad of ways** in which the **activity** and **benefits** of higher education and research can be **shared with the public**. Engagement is by definition a **two-way process**, involving **interaction** and **listening**, with the goal of generating **mutual benefit**."

NCCPE

Ultimate **goal**: to better connect the work of universities with society

How do we understand and promote engagement at UOC, a 100% online university?

Universitat Oberta de Catalunya

Our roadmap for engagement

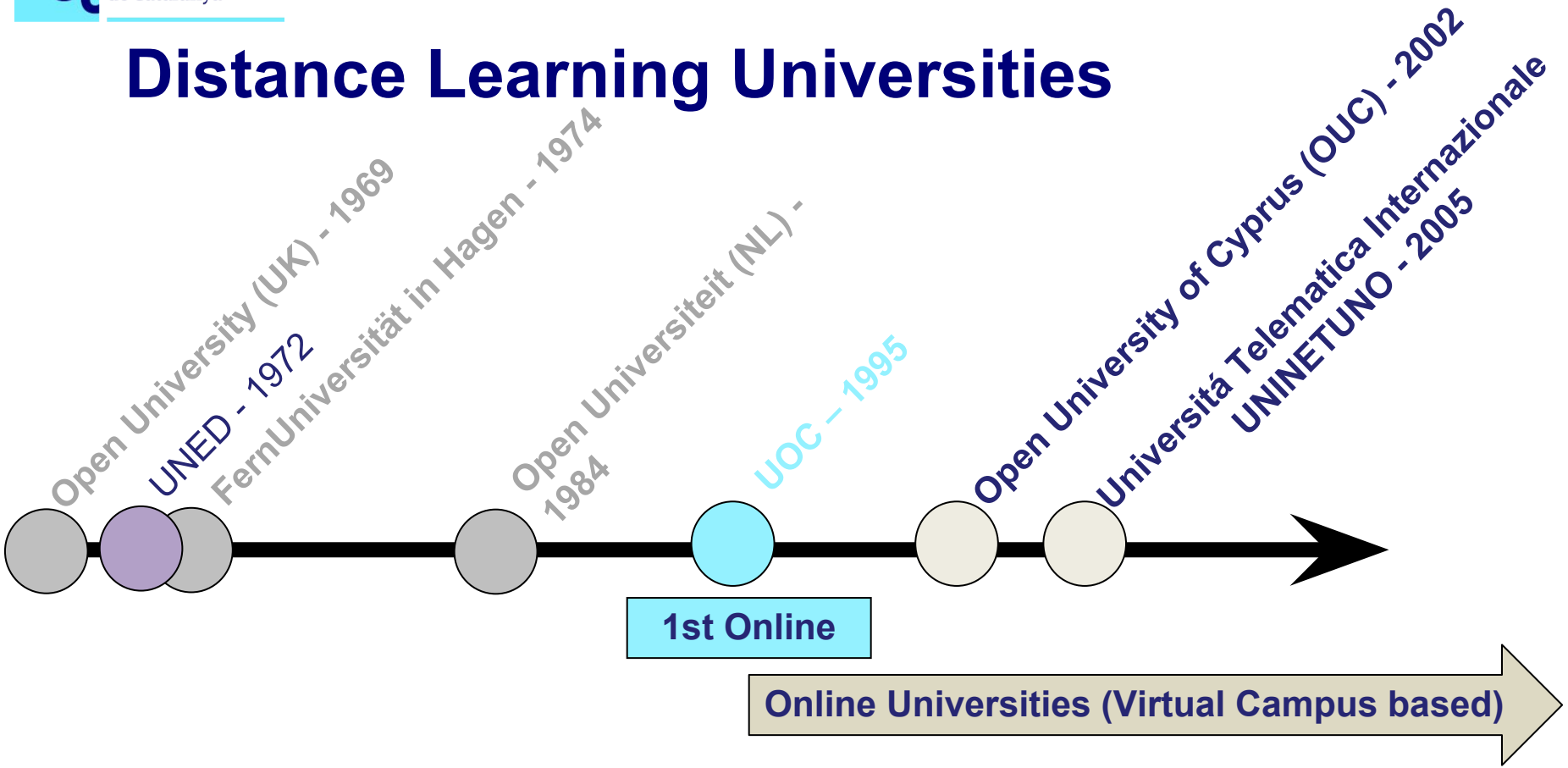
Universitat Oberta de Catalunya

With special focus on SDG 4

Ensure **inclusive** and **equitable quality education** and promote **life-long learning** opportunities for all

Universitat Oberta de Catalunya

Distance Learning Universities



Universitat Oberta de Catalunya

The university in the digital society

UNIVERSITY

- Face-to-face sessions of 90
- minutes
- The professor is at the centre
  The professor transmits his/her knowledge to the students

Incremental evolution

Most on-line universities

Audiovisual taping

60/90 minutes lectures

Face-to-face sessions are rewarded

The professor and the institution are at the centre

(synchrony when decided)

Disruptive change

UOC 1995

Re-engineered University

The students activity is central

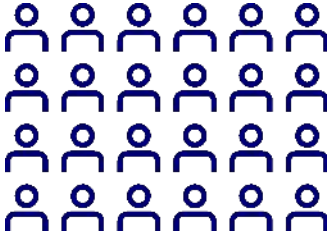
100% asynchrony plus virtuality

Teaching resources “industrialized” with a common pedagogic pattern (no art-craft from the professor)

Virtual lecture-room plus accompaniment from tutor and collaborator professor

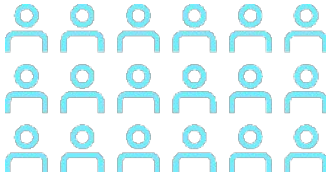
Continuous evaluation

Universitat Oberta de Catalunya



64,512

Graduates*



58,383

Students*

4,330

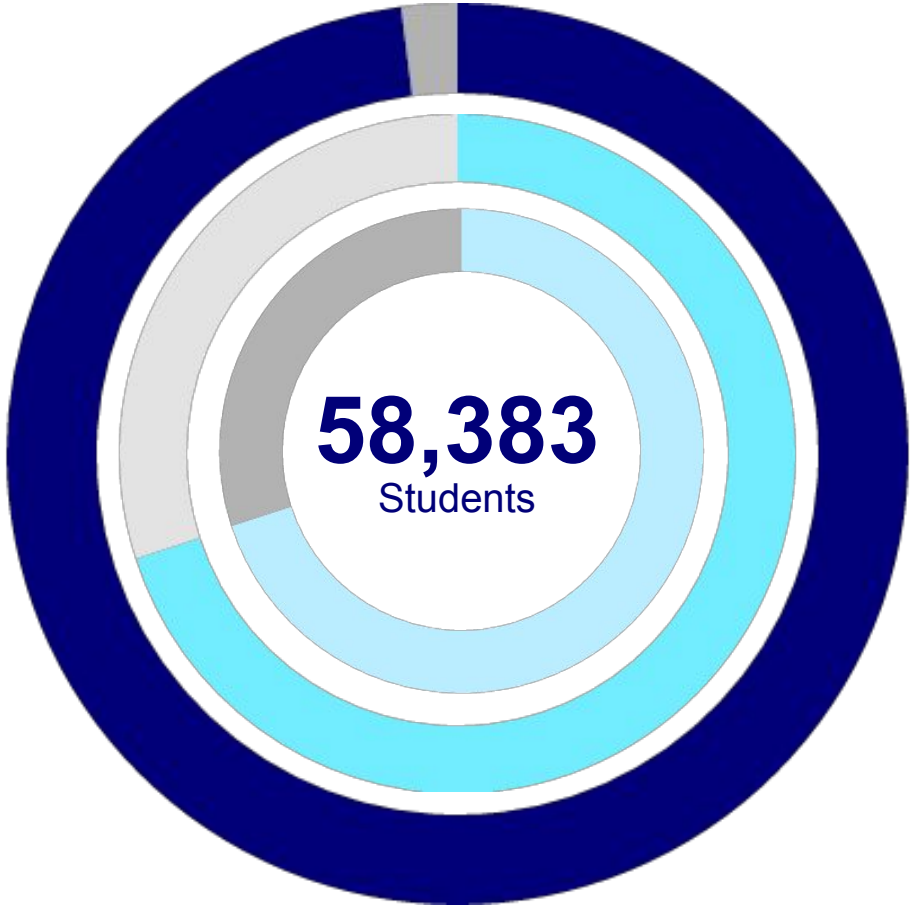
Teaching staff

615

Tutors

* Data for academic year 2016/2017

Universitat Oberta de Catalunya



93%

study and have a job

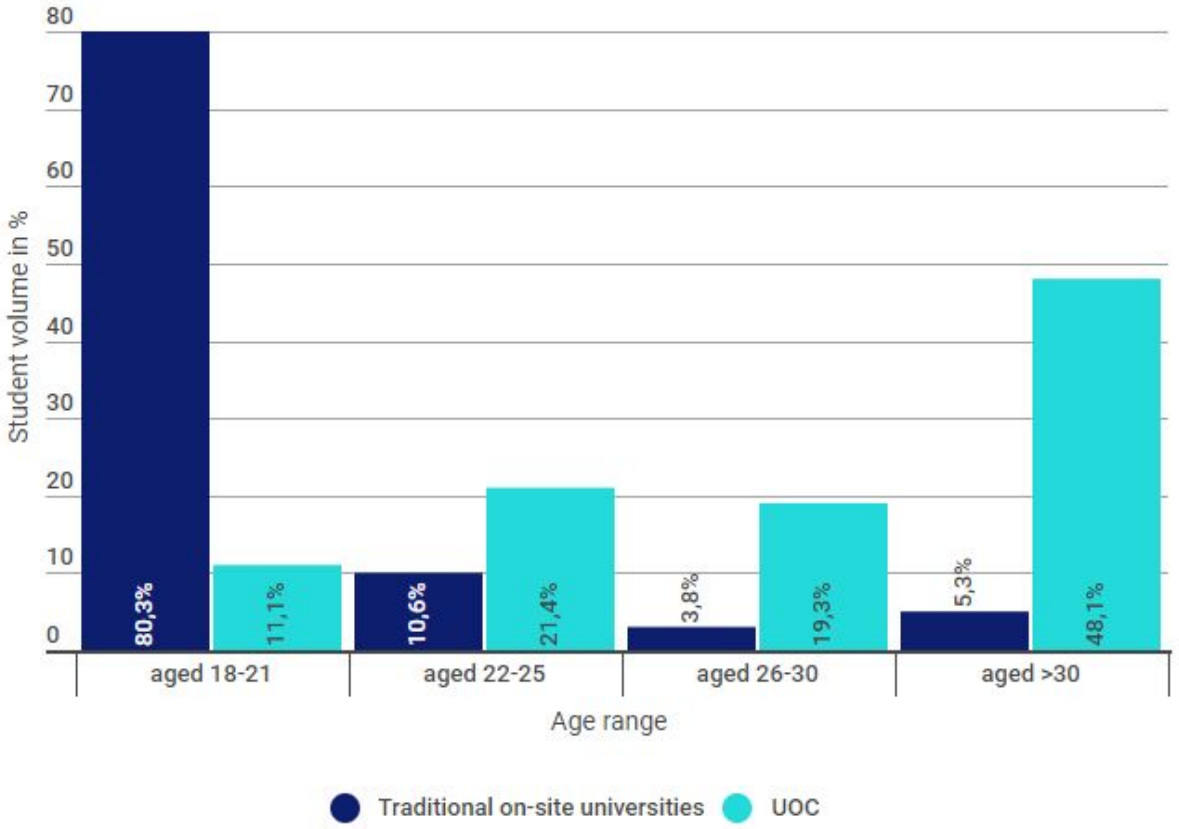
61%

are aged 30 or over

* Data for academic year 2016/2017

Universitat Oberta de Catalunya

New enrolments in the Catalan HE system



Data for the academic year 2016/2017

Universitat Oberta de Catalunya

93% of the graduates would choose the UOC again

Profile of UOC's Graduates

Level of satisfaction

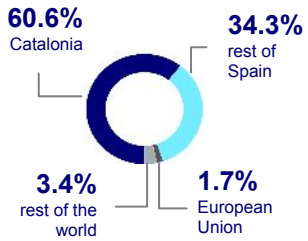
(On a scale from 1 to 5)

64,512 graduates

59.6% women

40.4% men

Where are they



Work

93% employed

60% have a job related with the degree course

After they graduate…

wish to keep ties with the UOC
81%

are in touch with former classmates from the UOC
53.1%

They choose the UOC

allows them to manage their own time
48%

could study wherever they wanted
34%

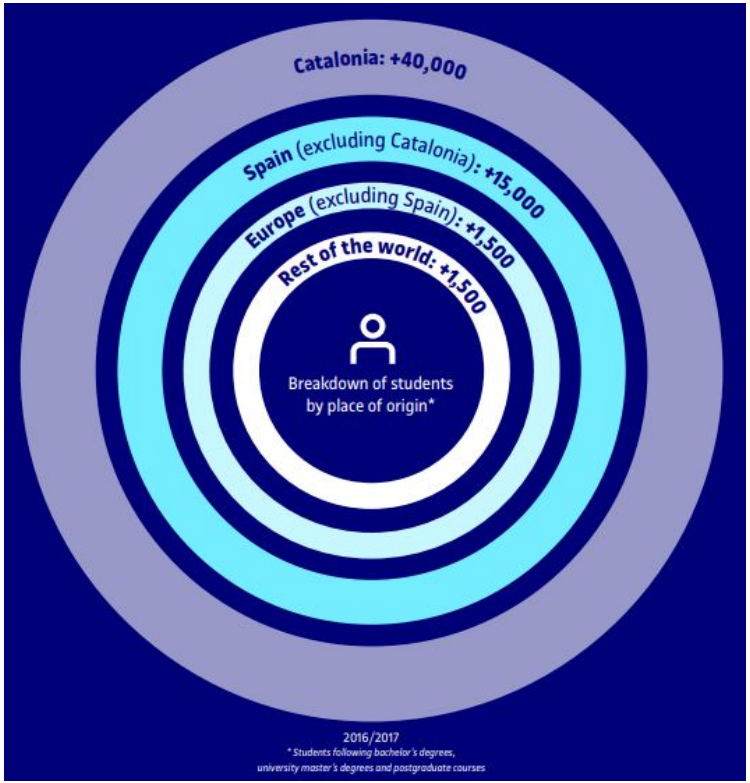
Why do they study?

84% To expand their knowledge and progress in their career

Data for the academic year 2016/2017

Universitat Oberta de Catalunya

UOC students are based in 134 different countries



Universitat Oberta de Catalunya

The Challenge

How to become a distance university without distance?

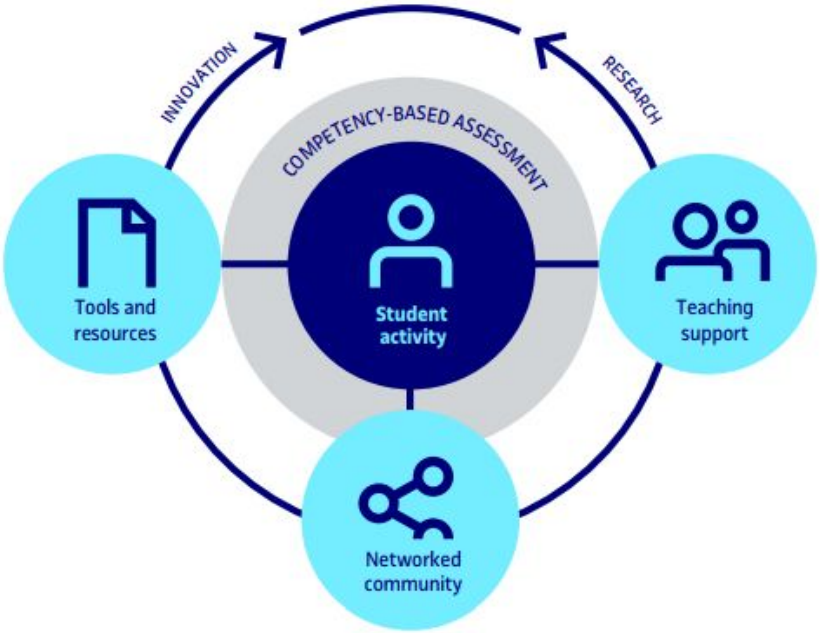
or

How to be a locally and globally engaged online university with social impact?

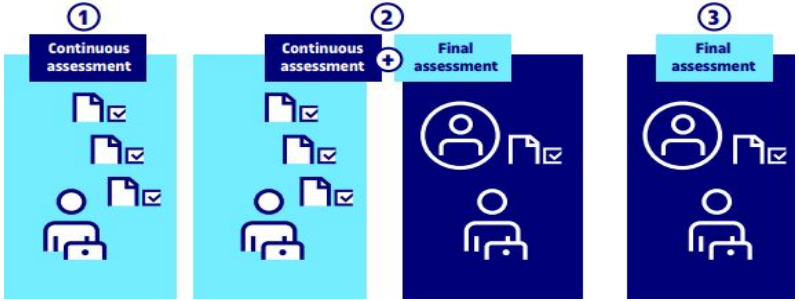
Universitat Oberta de Catalunya

Engagement through a unique educational model

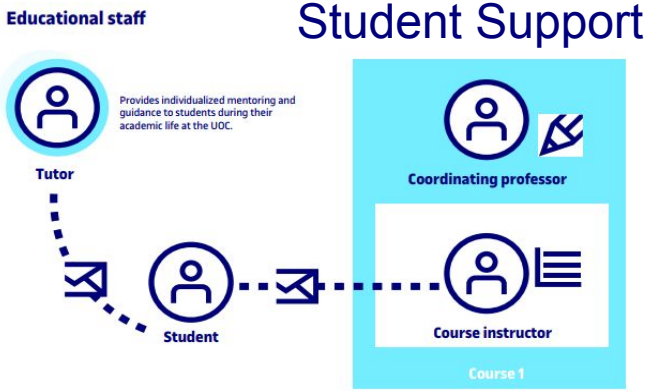
Dynamic and flexible



Continuous and Formative Assessment



Student Support



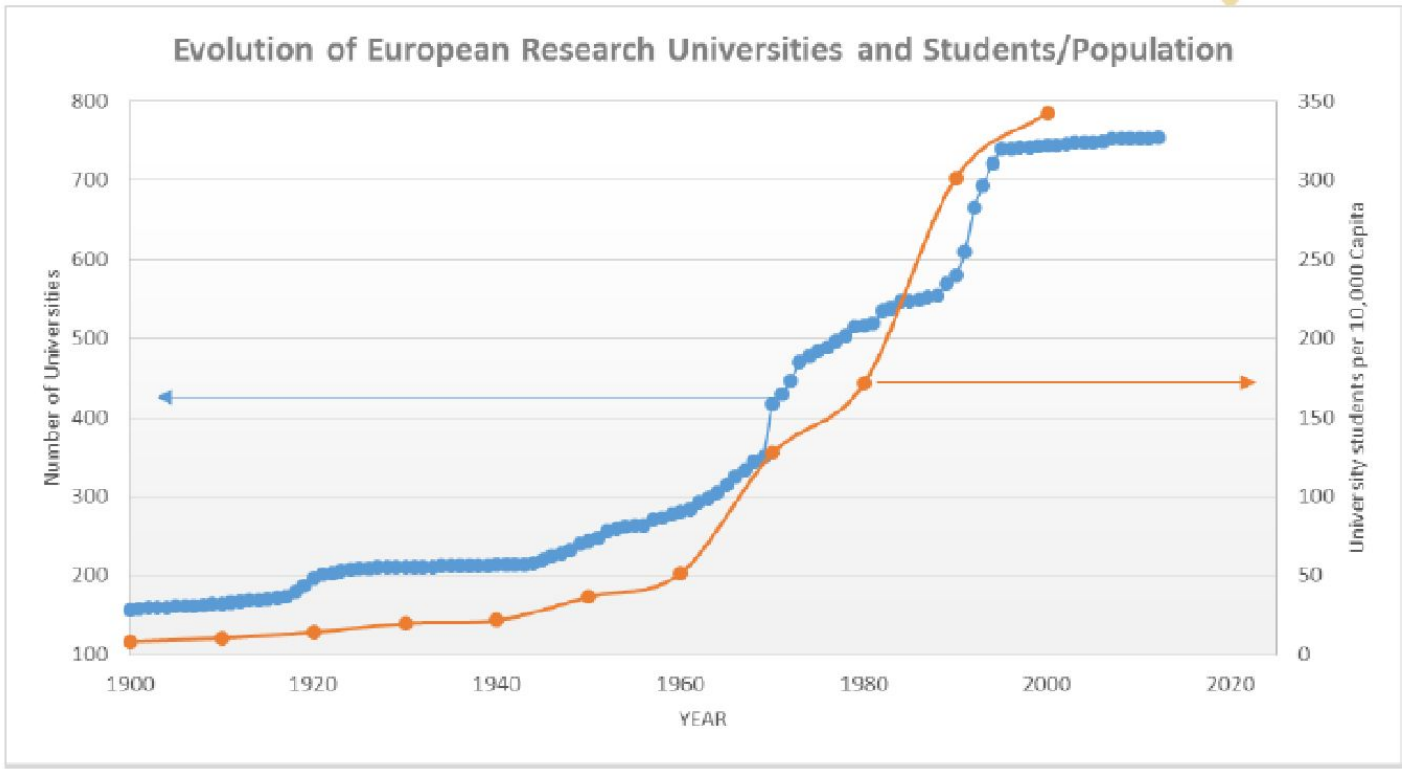
Universitat Oberta de Catalunya

Engagement as a contribution to widening access & offering quality online education for all

4.3 - By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education,
including university.

4.5 - By 2030, **eliminate gender disparities** in education and **ensure equal access** to all levels of education and vocational training **for the vulnerable.**

Universitat Oberta de Catalunya



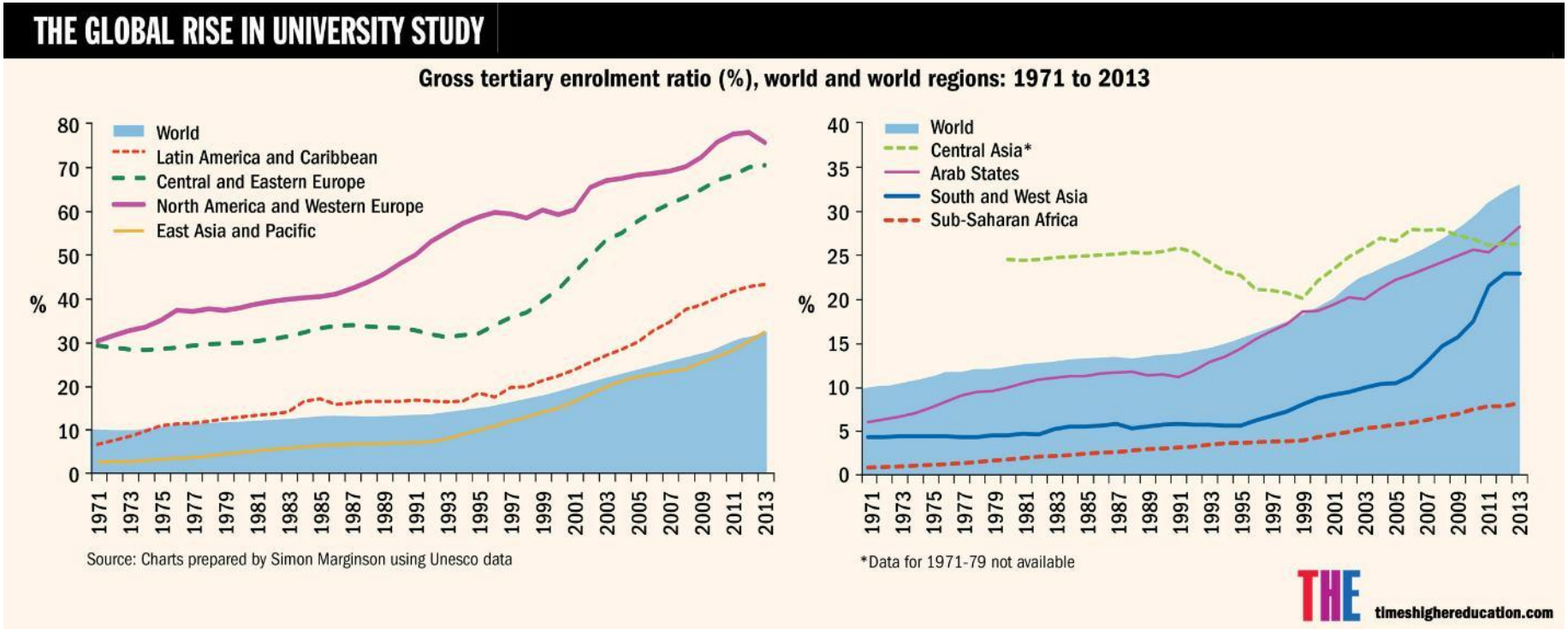
Graph by Prof. Xavier Grau, Secretary of Universities and Research, Generalitat de Catalunya

Sources:

Evan Schofer and John W. Meyer, "The Worldwide Expansion of Higher Education in the Twentieth Century", American Sociological Review, Vol. 70, No. 6 (Dec., 2005), pp. 898-920

Rüegg, Walter, A History of the University in Europe. Vol. III: Universities in the Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries (1800–1945), Cambridge University Press, 2004, ISBN 978-0-521-36107-1, pp. 3–31

Rüegg, Walter: A History of the University in Europe. Vol. IV: Universities Since 1945, Cambridge University Press, 2011, ISBN 978-0-521-36108-8, pp. 575–594



Expansion in global higher education 'has increased inequality', Times Higher Education (2016)

Universitat Oberta de Catalunya

- The **demand** for tertiary education is **increasing globally**
- OCDE estimates that in 2009 it was of 100 million people and by **2030 will be of 400 million people***
- In order to satisfy this demand by 2030 it will be necessary to create **2 universities for 20.000 students per day during the next 20 years**

* *www.oecd.org/edu/skills-beyond-school/highereducationto2030vol1demography.htm*

Universitat Oberta de Catalunya

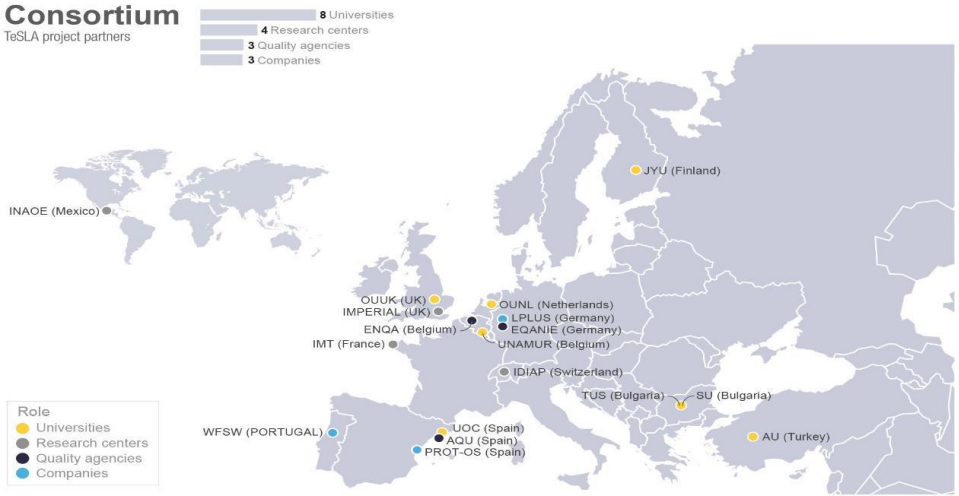
TeSLA
Adaptive trust-based e-assessment

An Adaptive Trust-based e-assessment System for Learning

Total Budget: 7 M€
(6 M€ from EU)

Funded by the European Union

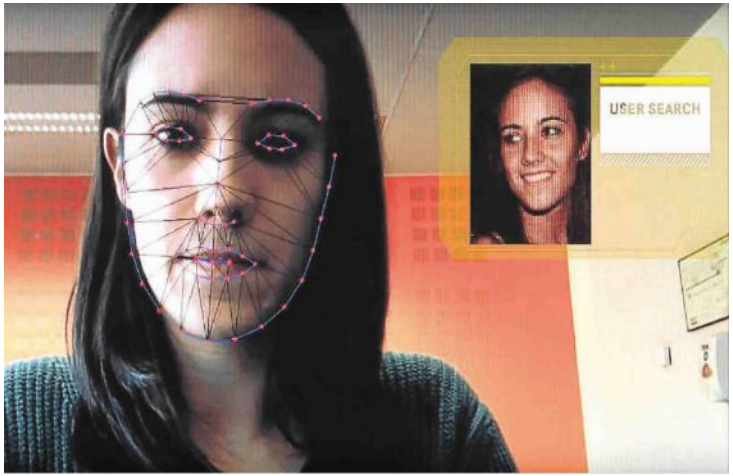
Project Number: 688520 – TESLA – H2020-ICT-2015/H2020-ICT-2015



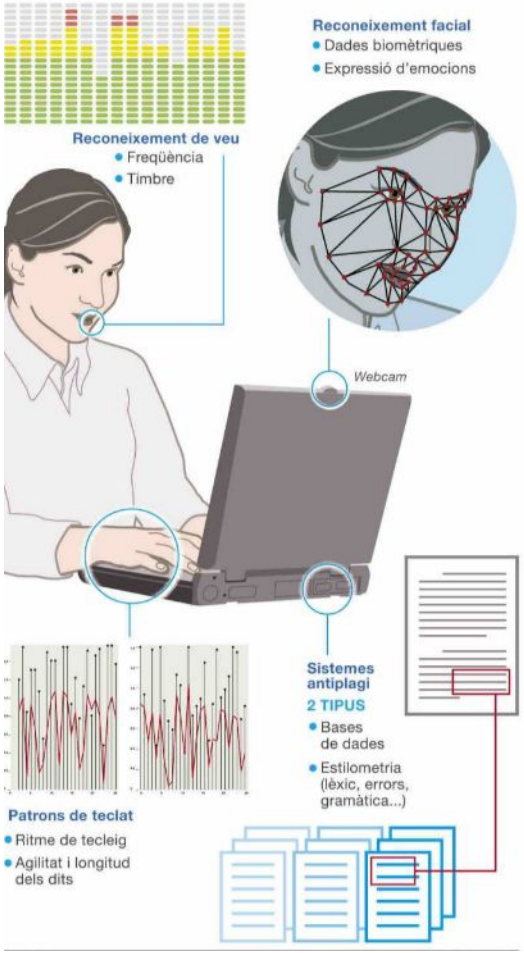
18 Partners (130 members)

8 Universities 3 Quality Agencies
4 Research Centers 3 Enterprises

Universitat Oberta de Catalunya



- Facial recognition
- Voice recognition
- Typing patterns
- Anti-plagiarism
- Forensic analysis
- Time stamping
- Face antispoofing
- Voice antispoofing



TeSLA
Adaptive trust-based e-assessment

Universitat Oberta de Catalunya

Promoting quality online education around the world

- Educational model
- Technological model
- Organisational model

UOC works together with higher education institutions, higher education ministries / governments and quality agencies, sharing the experience made at UOC and promoting quality online education around the world.

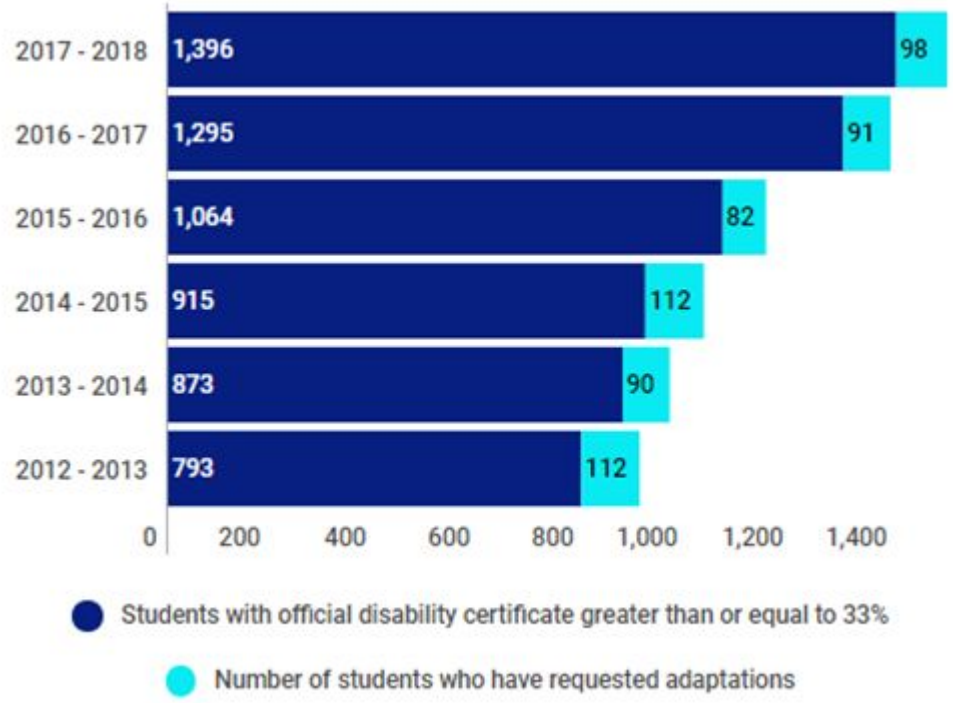
System level and personalised approach (no one-size fits all solution).

Latest collaboration experiences: Jordan, Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Ecuador

The UOC extends its e-learning model to the Middle East with a project in Jordan

Students with functional diversity at the UOC

The UOC is the Catalan university with the highest number of students with functional diversity



Universitat Oberta de Catalunya

Scholarship programme for refugees

1st call in Feb 2017

- Language courses
- 25 students aged between 19 and 34
- From Syria and Afghanistan

2nd call in September 2017:

- Language courses and Postgraduate specializations
- 36 students aged between 19 and 50
- From Syria, Sahara and other 10 countries

3rd call in September 2018:

- Language courses, postgraduate specializations and open courses
- 27 students aged between 20 and 46
- From Venezuela, Honduras, Colombia, El Salvador and other 8 countries

Lebanon welcome programme

- Spanish courses
- 17 students aged between 21 and 47
- From Syria, Kurdistan, Pakistan and Palestine

Universitat Oberta de Catalunya

Engagement through global competences

4.7 - By 2030 ensure all learners acquire knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including among others […] **global citizenship**.

Universitat Oberta de Catalunya

Joint Master degree in conflictology

unitar
United Nations Institute for Training and Research

Starting date: **2013**
More than **130 students** from **69 countries**

UNOG

Harnessing partnerships in the age of online education

Collaboration between experts and higher education institutions allows for knowledge sharing that offers students the best education possible.

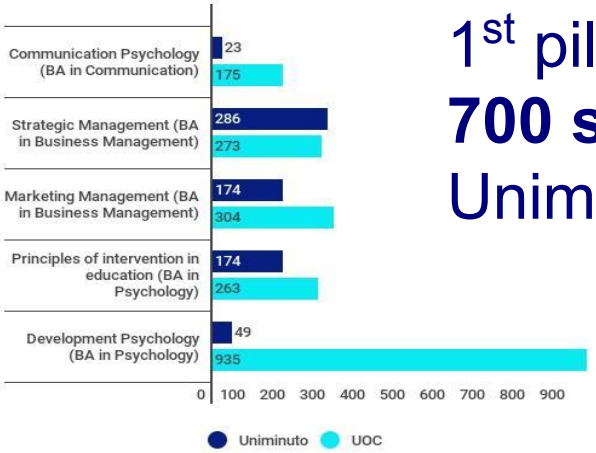
CLAUDIA CROCI, MWIZA KALISA & ADAM KANE, PEACEKEEPING TRAINING PROGRAMME, UNITAR

Over the past decade, advancements in science have created more technology dependent societies and significantly impacted the way teaching and learning

to traditional forms of education. Statistics show an impressive growth of online teaching and learning. A 2015 study of distance education in the United States

Virtual massive mobility programmes

The exchanged students study **one or more courses at UOC classrooms** while they continue studying the rest of their degree in their home University.



1st pilot in **Sep 2016**
700 students from Uniminuto (Colombia)

2nd pilots in **Sep 2017**

93 students UCC (Colombia)

83 students DUOC (Chile)

52 students UPCH (Peru)

Participatory final projects

Inspired in the idea of the Science Shops, UOC offers in a pilot project to its student the possibility of realizing their final project through participatory research that tries to give solutions to real world problems

Universitat Oberta de Catalunya

Engagement through open knowledge

Open Knowledge Action Plan

- Open Access
- Open Data (FAIR)
- Open Educational Resources
- Open Innovation
- **Open to Society**
- Models of evaluation

Universitat Oberta de Catalunya

Being a locally and globally engaged online University

- To contribute to the education of **global citizens** and **global professionals**
- To enhance the **quality** of education and research
- To make a meaningful contribution to **society**

UOC.universitat
@UOCuniversitat
@uocuniversitat

uoc.edu

Grateful for your attention!

Universitat Oberta de Catalunya