

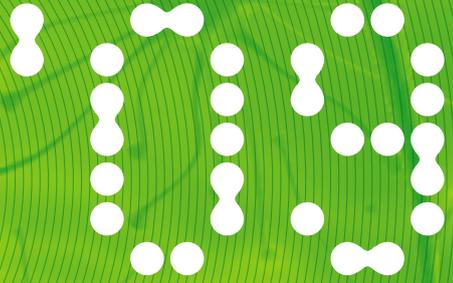
THE E-LEARNING RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND TRAINING CENTER OF THE UOC

 **UOC**

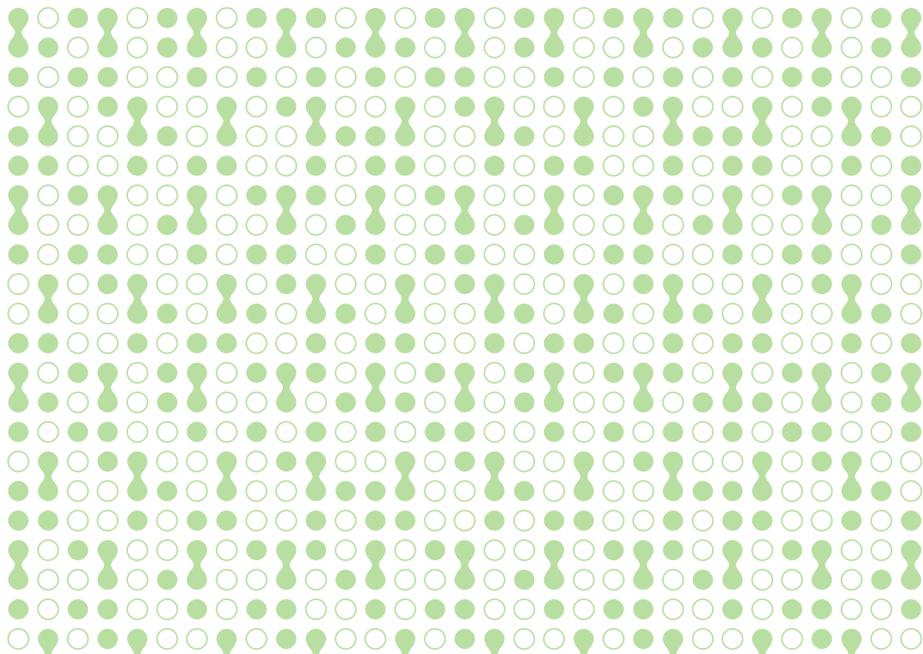
Universitat Oberta  
de Catalunya

[www.uoc.edu](http://www.uoc.edu)

  
**eLEARN CENTER**



# Report on activities



## Begoña Gros

Director of the eLearn Center  
Vice-President of Research and Innovation of the UOC

In its fifteen years of life, the UOC has attained a high level in innovation and research in e-learning on the basis of its experience in electronic teaching and learning, in its facets of design and development of teaching methods, production of materials for the various programs, and adaptation and optimization of technological tools for online education. The University's teaching staff, belonging to different disciplines (engineering, law, pedagogy, psychology, economics, etc.), has made e-learning and its related fields its area of study.

Taking inspiration from a network model of research, we facilitate work and collaboration between teams of professionals of the UOC and other institutions to search for more innovative forms of developing e-learning.

Since its creation in January 2009, we have worked to articulate the Center by creating a community of 90 members to stimulate training, research and innovation in e-learning. This network of experts constitutes a response to the needs and demands of virtual education, promotes innovative learning models and methodologies and improves the quality of virtual training. Researchers, groups and personnel from the UOC programs, along with collaborators from other universities and institutions, both national and international, make up the community of the eLearn Center.

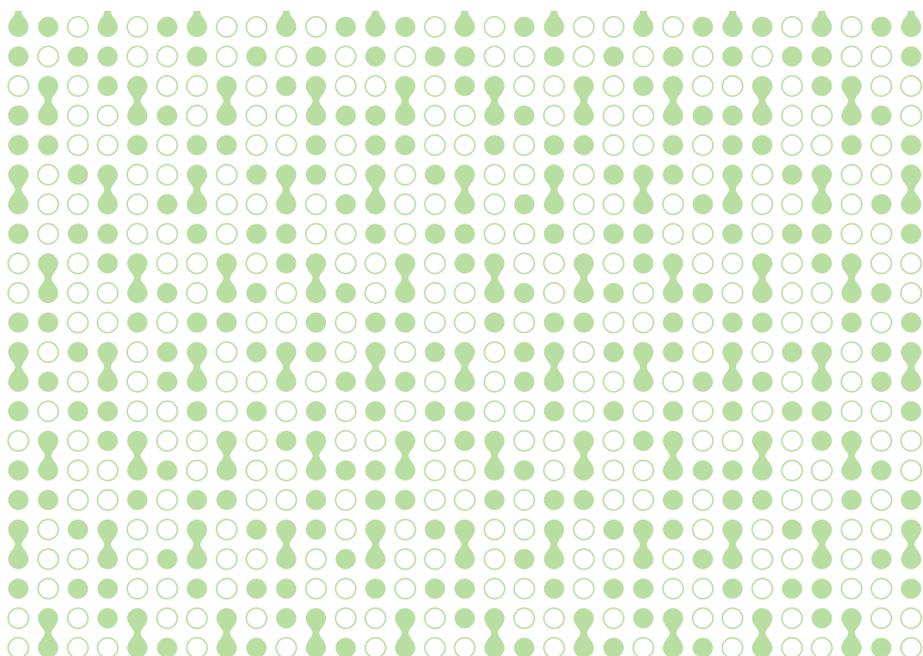
At the eLearn Center we develop e-learning on the basis of three major axes: research, innovation and training, which interact and enrich each other.

I am pleased to provide you with the eLC Activity Report 2009. We count on all of you to make the Center grow and to contribute to its e-learning activity.



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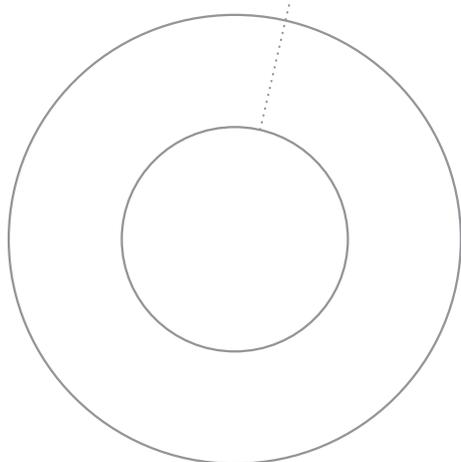
July 2010  
elearncenter@uoc.edu



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## THE CENTER

THE eLEARN CENTER (eLC) WAS CREATED IN EARLY 2009 WITH THE MISSION OF STIMULATING THE UOC'S ACTIVITY IN EDUCATION AND ICTs AND CONTRIBUTING TO THE POSITIONING OF THE UNIVERSITY AS A **POINT OF REFERENCE IN RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND TRAINING IN E-LEARNING.**

1994

2009

### VANGUARD

The UOC was founded, a pioneering university in e-learning

### EXPERIENCE

15 years in e-learning

### CRITICAL MASS

The UOC is well-placed to share its expertise and to contribute to knowledge about e-learning

- It takes as its basis the experience accumulated during the 15 years of life of the UOC and exploits its **know-how in education and virtuality.**
- It finds its inspiration in a **network model of research** which facilitates work and collaboration between teams of professionals of the UOC and other institutions, searching for innovative ways of expanding the sphere of e-learning.
- It supports the activity of its members and its networks of associated experts and institutions, promotes innovative learning models and methodologies and **improves the quality of virtual training.**
- It promotes **knowledge** and **social recognition** of e-learning as an innovative educational methodology, favoring its dissemination and facilitating its domestic and international projection.

## OBJECTIVES

1. To make a substantial contribution to research and innovation in the use of technologies for virtual learning and training.
2. To promote best innovative educational practices based on the use of ICTs to improve teaching and learning processes.
3. To boost training in e-learning by way of its own high-level range of training programs incorporating results of research and innovation, facilitating the transfer of these results.

## RESEARCH, INNOVATION, TRAINING AND DISSEMINATION: MUCH MORE THAN A RESEARCH CENTER

The centre is organized in four areas: **Research, Innovation, Training and Dissemination and Internationalization.**

### Research

Responds to the problems posed by e-learning from a multidimensional perspective.

Research Program 2009-2012 *Time Factor in e-learning*, focusing on aspects such as:

- Synchrony
- Learning rhythms
- Student continuation rates

### Innovation

Optimizes online teaching and learning by way of projects for improving educational practices in the use of ICTs.

Focus of interest:

- Collaborative production of knowledge
- Assessment and (self-)regulation in the acquisition of competences
- Learning in immersive environments

### Training

Improves skills in direction and management of e-learning and in the use of ICTs in education for the benefit of the educational community, companies and society as a whole.

The range:

- University Master's Degree in Education and ICT (*e-learning*)
- Postgraduate diplomas and specialization courses
- International certificates

### Dissemination and Internationalization

Situates the eLC in the international context of e-learning, promoting and participating in a network community of experts.

## LINES OF WORK

Research, innovation and training share 3 priority lines of work:

- **LINE 1.** Teaching and learning processes
- **LINE 2.** Organization, management and educational policies
- **LINE 3.** Technological resources for learning

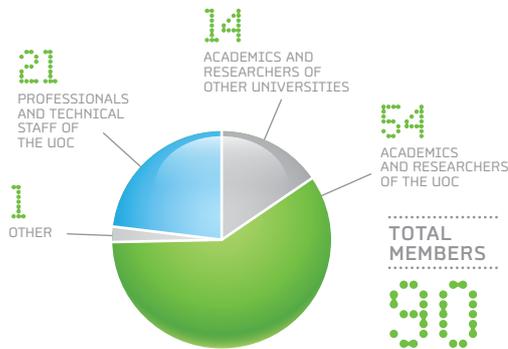
# #02



## THE COMMUNITY

### A PLURAL COMMUNITY

Researchers, academics, professors and managers of e-learning make up the community of the Center.



# #03



## THE PROJECTS

### TIME IS THE KEY

#### *The temporal dimension in e-learning*

The Center's **Research Program** 2009-2012 is oriented to providing solutions to specific problems of e-learning related with the **time factor**. It focuses thematically the activity of the researchers who collaborate with the Center.

#### OBJECTIVE:

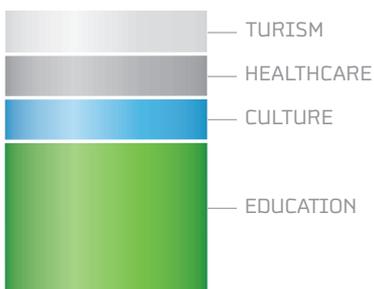
- To bring together actions and decisions on the Time Factor in online education with the goal of improving learning.

#### RESULTS OBTAINED:

- Theoretical framework and review of literature (650 articles in leading magazines; 1,200 articles in specialized databases).

#### Web:

[http://www.uoc.edu/portal/catala/learncenter/recerca-innovacio/programa\\_recerca/index.html](http://www.uoc.edu/portal/catala/learncenter/recerca-innovacio/programa_recerca/index.html)

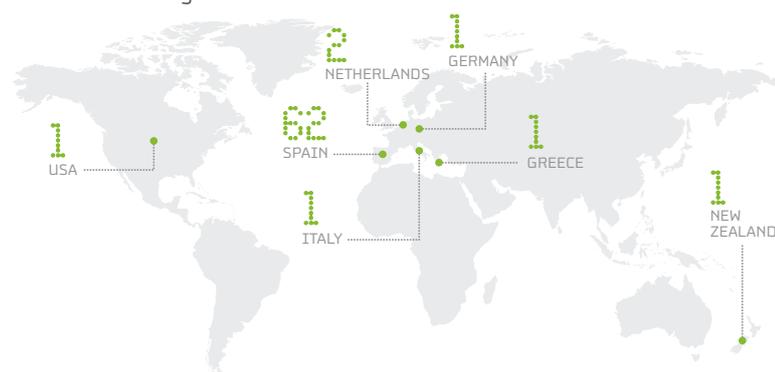


### AN INTERDISCIPLINARY COMMUNITY

The eLC tackles the research in e-learning from different perspectives: education, healthcare, tourism and culture.

### A GLOBAL COMMUNITY

Researchers from many parts of the world contribute to the Center's activity.



### A GROWING COMMUNITY

The eLC was created with 30 members and finished the year with a total of 90.



## WHAT ARE WE TALKING ABOUT WHEN WE TALK ABOUT E-LEARNING?

### Conceptual framework of e-learning



The project is oriented to defining the concept of e-learning resulting from the consensus of the scientific community and the different communities of practice.

#### OBJECTIVE:

- To identify the various definitions of e-learning by way of the review of literature of reference and to classify them according to their approaches and underlying ideas.

#### RESULTS OBTAINED:

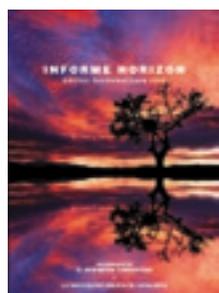
- Review of literature (50 articles in specialized magazines; 10 books; 20 specialized websites).
- Analysis of categories, 2 focus groups with professionals of the UOC.

#### Blog of the project:

<http://elconcept.uoc.edu>

## EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES IN HIGHER EDUCATION IN IBERO-AMERICA

### Horizon Report: Iberoamerican Edition 2010



The report identifies and analyses the six technologies with the greatest potential for transformation of higher education in Ibero-America with horizons of 1, 3 and 5 years, along with the future challenges and trends that will have to be faced. This is a joint initiative of the UOC and the New Media Consortium (NMC).

#### OBJECTIVE:

- To publish the Iberoamerican version of the Horizon Report in September 2010.

#### RESULTS OBTAINED:

- Planning of the project with a view to the publication of a first edition of the report.
- Constitution of the Advisory Board, formed by 42 experts in technologies for learning and authorities on the Iberoamerican context, from 15 different countries.

#### Blog of the project:

<http://elchr.uoc.edu>



## RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

*The Center benefits from the work of individual members and research and innovation groups*

### 7 RESEARCH AND INNOVATION GROUPS



#### EduL@b. Research group into education and ICTs.

Application of new teaching and learning methodologies by means of ICTs.

<http://edulab.uoc.edu/>



#### Net2Learn. User-centered adaptive technologies for e-learning.

Open repositories of learning objects.

<http://net2learn.uoc.edu/>



#### EDUS. Distance education in universities and schools.

Building knowledge in virtual teaching and learning contexts by contributing to the social and cognitive facets of educational psychology.

[http://in3.uoc.edu/webs/grups\\_de\\_recerca/edus/](http://in3.uoc.edu/webs/grups_de_recerca/edus/)



#### eHealthLab. UOC telemedicine laboratory.

Development of a 2.0 virtual platform to access different telemedicine applications.

[http://www.laboratoriode\\_telemedicina.com](http://www.laboratoriode_telemedicina.com)



### Digital skills.

ICT skills in higher education.



### MUSEIA. Heritage, Museology, Museography and ICTs.

Online educational resources on cultural heritage and museology.

<http://www.museia.cat>



### New Tourism Laboratory.

Simulations and technological tools for learning in tourism.

## 15 RESEARCH AND INNOVATION PROJECTS

### Net2Learn Group

**Lead researcher:** Julià Minguillón ([jminguillona@uoc.edu](mailto:jminguillona@uoc.edu))

- **SUMA2.** Multimodal and adaptative e-learning
- **Unidiscat09.** Accessibility. Automatic transcription of mathematical formulas: text, sound and Braille
- **UOCLET.** Web annotation tool
- Open repository of learning objects. Automatic assistant for learning Logics

### Edu@b Group

**Lead researcher:** Montse Guitert ([mguitert@uoc.edu](mailto:mguitert@uoc.edu))

- **e-Jump 2.0.** Implementing e-learning in everyday learning processes in higher and vocational education
- Policies and practices related with the ICTs in compulsory education: implications for educational innovation and improvement
- **CONCEDE.** Content Creation Excellence through Dialogue in Education

### EDUS Group

**Lead researcher:** Elena Barberà ([ebarbera@uoc.edu](mailto:ebarbera@uoc.edu))

- Red Temática **e-portfolio** (e-portfolio thematic network)
- **e-transfoli.** Assessment of transversal skills

### New Tourism Laboratory Group

**Lead researcher:** Joan Miquel Gomis ([jgomis@uoc.edu](mailto:jgomis@uoc.edu))

- GIS for teaching in Tourism
- Simulation software for tourism intermediation
- **Google Online Marketing Challenge**

### MUSEIA Group

**Lead researcher:** Glòria Munilla ([gmunilla@uoc.edu](mailto:gmunilla@uoc.edu))

- **3C4Learning** Project: Creativity, community, children

### Digital skills Group

**Lead researcher:** Montse Guitert ([mguitert@uoc.edu](mailto:mguitert@uoc.edu))

- ICT skills in the EHES. Teaching resources, tools and strategies

### eHealthLab Group

**Lead researcher:** Francesc Saigí ([fsaigi@uoc.edu](mailto:fsaigi@uoc.edu))

- Telemedicine Laboratory 2.0

## IMPULSE FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

### eLC Research Fellows Program

With the aim of favoring research and benefiting from expert knowledge, the Center incorporates researchers of recognized prestige in the sphere of e-learning.



#### Dr. Lalita Rajasingham

Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand

**Line of work:** Teaching and learning processes in e-learning.

**Research project:** Factors leading to successful e-learning in the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya.



#### Dr. Jakko Van der Pol

Universiteit Utrecht, Holland

**Line of work:** Teaching and learning processes in e-learning.

**Research project:** Three forms of grounding in online collaborative learning: investigating the optimal collaborative load.

**Dr. Agostino Marengo***Università degli Studi di Bari, Italy***Line of work:** Learning technologies in e-learning.**Research project:** A semantic web-based approach for dynamic e-learning. Learning Insight System - LIS Project

# TRAINING IN E-LEARNING

*The Center makes possible the transfer of knowledge by means of its own training program in e-learning*

The Education and ICTs Program is oriented to developing skills for optimizing the use of ICTs for educational and/or training purposes. It is addressed to teachers and professionals in the university, school and corporate sectors.

**AIMS:**

- To contribute to knowledge based on the function and appropriate use of e-learning.
- To provide organizations with an innovative and up-to-the-minute range of training courses.
- To introduce ICTs as an element of methodological change in educational institutions.

## THE RANGE OF TRAINING COURSES: INNOVATIVE, UP-TO-THE-MINUTE AND OF HIGH QUALITY

**MASTER'S DEGREE:**

- University Master's Degree in Education and ICT (*e-learning*)

**POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMAS:**

- Innovation and creative use of ICTs in education. UOC-Espiral
- E-learning Research

**SPECIALIZATION COURSES:**

- Resources for methodological innovation in the digital classroom
- Teaching development on the web
- Teaching social networks, creativity and innovation
- Collaborative learning and digital competences
- Specialist in the use of ICTs in teaching
- Specialist in program, environments and materials design with ICT support

### eLC Visiting Professors

The eLC benefits from consultancy with visiting professors who are experts in the Center's lines of work.

**Dr. Paul Kirschner***Open University of the Netherlands***Personalized advice in dissemination of research in e-learning and publications.****Dr. Ileana de la Teja***LICEF Research Center Tele-university, Canada***Consultancy to the direction of the UOC Master's degree in Education and ICT (e-learning) in competence-based design.**

### Research assistants and internship students

**Dr. Dimitrios Vlachopoulos***Research assistant***Researcher of the project *Conceptual framework of e-learning*.****Eva Durall***Research assistant***Researcher of the project *Horizon Report: Ibero-American Edition 2010*.****Stefanie Schuler***Internship student***Internship student involved in the projects *Conceptual framework of e-learning* and *e-Transfoli*.**

### Doctorate grant students

Six researchers are carrying out their doctoral thesis within the framework of the related groups and are overseen by a Thesis Director of the Center:

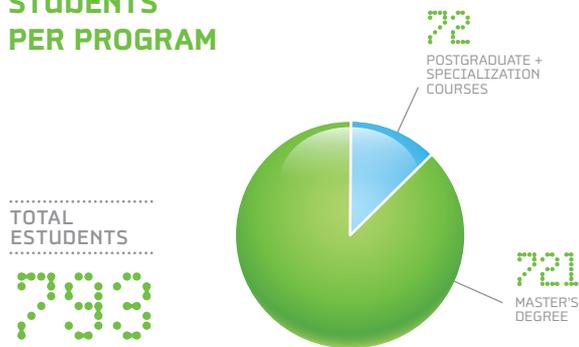
**Maria Pérez-Mateo. Director:** Dr. Montse Guitert**Lorena Becerril. Director:** Dr. Toni Badia**Jonathan Castaño. Directors:** Dr. Josep Maria Quart and Dr. Teresa Sancho**Ana Maria Rodera. Director:** Dr. Elena Barberà**Janine Sprünker. Director:** Dr. Glòria Munilla**Luciana Caffesse. Director:** Dr. Teresa Guasch

- Specialist in training project management and administration using ICTs
- Technician in training project management and administration using ICTs
- Technician in program, environments and materials design with ICT support
- Technician in online training and counselling

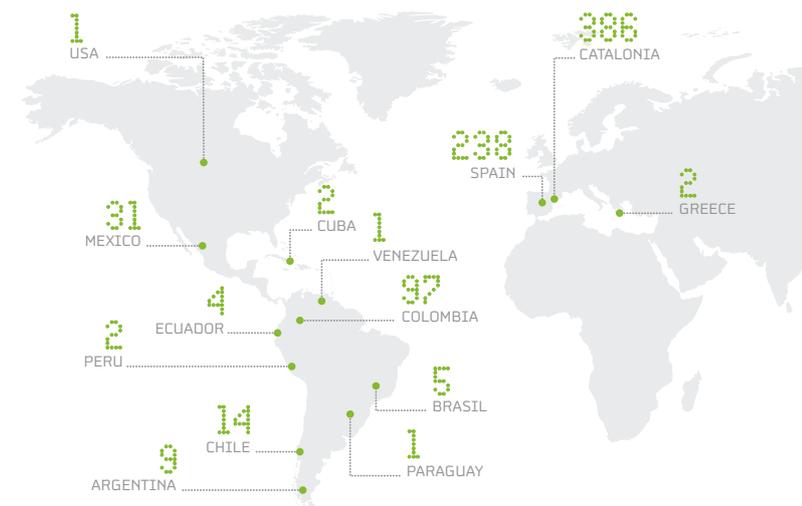
#### INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATES:

- Joint Certificate: E-Learning Design and Development. UOC-UNM (University of New Mexico, USA)
- European Certificate: E-learning course design and teaching

#### STUDENTS PER PROGRAM



#### STUDENTS PER COUNTRY



#### INTERNAL TRAINING PROGRAM: FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF TEACHING IN THE UOC

Courses, specialized training seminars, support resources, methodological consultancy guides and compilations of best practices, for both initial training and update of knowledge.



#### COSTUMISED TRAINING PROGRAM: COLLABORATION WITH INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS IN THE IMPLANTATION OF E-LEARNING MODELS

Consultancy in projects for integrating e-learning into higher education institutions. Training of groups of executives, professors and managers. Assessment of the elements of educational practice (training projects, courses, materials and resources).



#### PROJECTS

**Blended and online teaching. Universidad Mayor de San Andrés (UMSA), Bolivia.**



Training in teaching strategies in virtual teaching and learning environments for 56 professors. (November 2009 - March 2010).



# ACTIVITIES

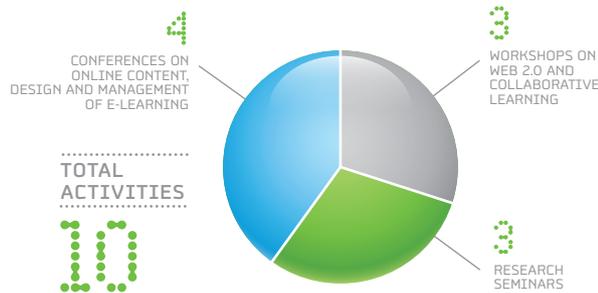
Conferences, workshops and research seminars

## THE CENTER INITIATES A STABLE PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

During 2009, the Center organized 10 activities oriented to generation of knowledge, dissemination of e-learning, fostering of research and creation of community, with the participation of more than 100 people. The activities are addressed to both members of the Center and the educational community as a whole.



### ACTIVITIES



#### “Digital Learners: Rethoric or Reality?”

Lecture by **Dr. Mark Bullen**, Associated Dean, British Columbia Institute of Technology, Canada. 22 October



#### “Multialfabetización y competencias digitales” (“Multi-literacy training and digital skills”)

Lecture by **Dr. Manuel Area**, Universidad de La Laguna, Spain. 15 December

93%

The conferences, seminars and workshops respond to the interests and expectations of the participants to a degree of 93%.

80%

80% of the participants value positively their contents and applicability.



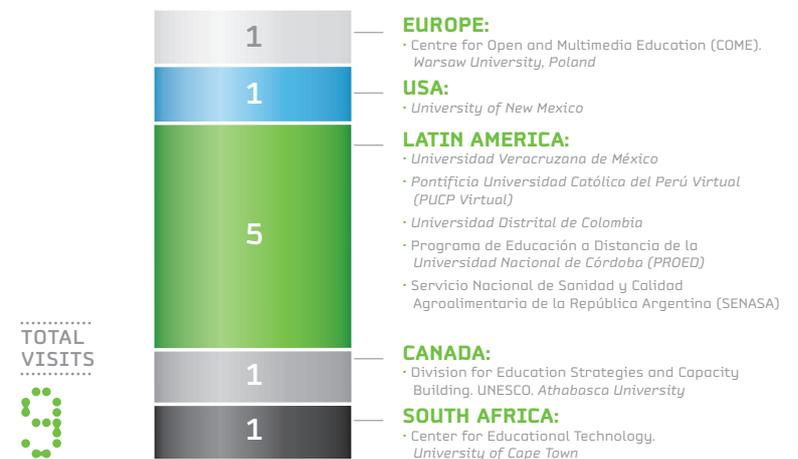
“I think it’s very important that the eLC promotes seminars and conferences on innovative methodologies 2.0”



“I’ve learned new things but, in particular, the content of the session has led me to reflect.”

## INSTITUTIONAL VISITS

With the goal of learning about its activities in research, innovation and training, representatives of 9 universities and higher education institutions have visited the Center. These contacts contribute to the creation of networks of experts in e-learning.



#### COME (Centre for Open and Multimedia Education)

Uniwersytet Warszawski (University of Warsaw), Poland.



#### Division for Education Strategies and Capacity Building. UNESCO.

Athabasca University, Canada.



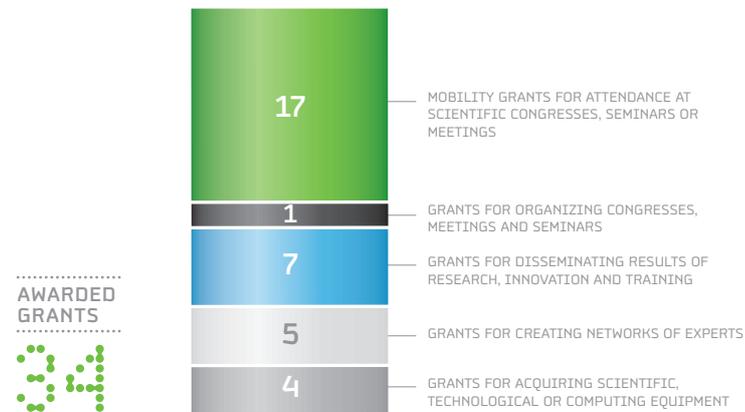
## SUPPORT FOR MEMBERS' RESEARCH AND ACTIVITIES

*The Center offers services oriented to favoring research and dissemination of projects and activities*

### ECONOMIC SUPPORT FOR PROMOTION AND DISSEMINATION OF INNOVATION, RESEARCH AND TRAINING IN E-LEARNING

The Center has awarded a total of 34 grants in two annual calls, benefiting professors, researchers and management staff.

The calls included 5 different types of grants:



### SESSIONS OF PERSONALIZED METHODOLOGICAL ADVICE FOR RESEARCH

Professor Paul Kirschner of the Open University of the Netherlands, and visiting professor of the eLC, has advised a total of 16 researchers on the identification of the best strategies for scientific dissemination of research results and innovation projects.

### 2.0 WEBSITES FOR THE COMMUNITY

Definition and design of spaces of exchange and collaborative work.

THE UNIVERSITAT  
OBERTA DE CATALUNYA

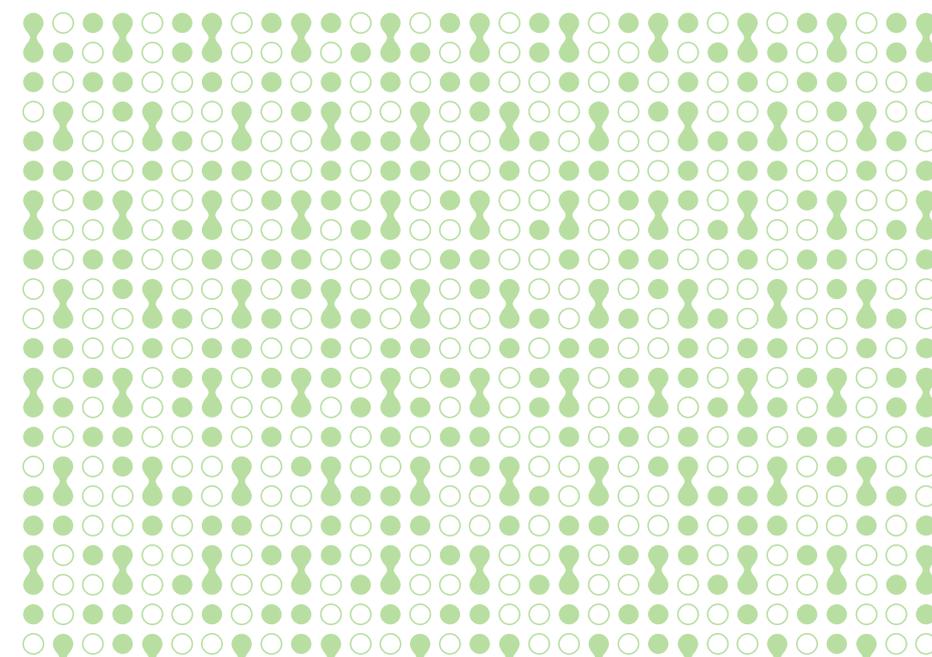
# THE UNIVERSITAT OBERTA DE CATALUNYA

THE UOC WAS FOUNDED IN 1994 UNDER THE IMPULSE OF THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT OF CATALONIA WITH THE MISSION TO TRAIN PEOPLE THROUGHOUT LIFE, PROVIDING THEM ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION IN A DYNAMIC, FLEXIBLE AND PERSONALIZED WAY. ITS TEACHING AND LEARNING MODEL, AS WELL AS ITS MANAGEMENT, IS BASED ON THE INTENSIVE USE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES.

It is a networked and in-the-network university. Modern, innovative and pioneering, the UOC leads new methodological distance learning proposals to become a world leader in the field of distance higher education.

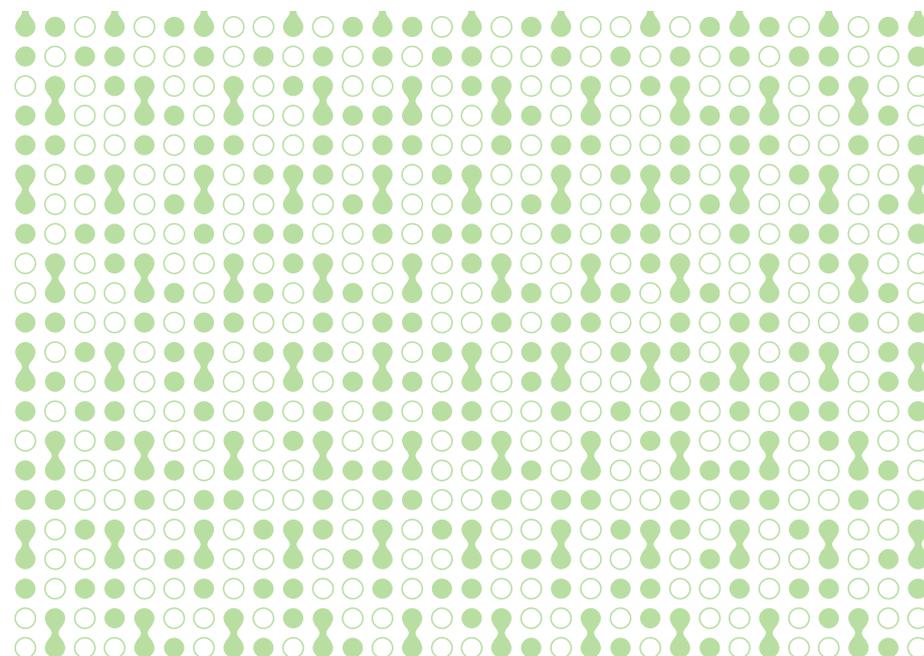
## UOC FIGURES

- More than **54,000 students** enrolled
- **200 professors** and **2,346 tutors and counselors**
- **1,274** undergraduate, graduate, postgraduate and extension **programs**
- **2,302 virtual classrooms**
- A community of over **100,000 students, graduates, academics, researchers and collaborators** in over **87 countries**
- The UOC holds the **612 position** in the “Ranking web of world universities” (Webometrics) of the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC)



## Credits

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Universitat Oberta  
de Catalunya

[www.uoc.edu](http://www.uoc.edu)

A CENTER OPEN TO THE WORLD

THE eLEARN CENTER IS OPEN TO THE INCORPORATION  
OF NEW MEMBERS AND PROJECTS AND  
COLLABORATION WITH COMPANIES.

Contact the eLC

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