Higher Education and Digital Transformation: The UOC case

Higher Education Partnerships for Social Impact
IAU 2018 International Conference
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Daniel Riera i Terrén
Vicedean of R&I Dept. of Computing, Multimedia and Telecommunications

Universitat Oberta de Catalunya
DT is already helping us with SDG 4
...but are we (HE) helping DT?

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all
Who are we?

We are the first online university in the world. We were born in 1995. So, we are quite young.

What do I want to explain you?

Digital Transformation is in our DNA. We have already faced many challenges of DT and are transforming the world with its help.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Graduates*</td>
<td>64,512</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students*</td>
<td>58,383</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching staff</td>
<td>4,330</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Data for academic year 2016/2017
Which are the advantages we have met in the last 24 years in UOC?
Data for academic year 2016/2017

Flexibility

No time constraints (…at the moment, less time constraints)

58,383 Students

93% study and have a job

61% are aged 30 or over
Flexibility

Reachability

No space/distance constraints (…if you have Internet access)
Scholarship programme for refugees

Flexibility

Reachability

No space/distance constraints (…if you have Internet access)

Reach the unreached!
Mixing people from around the world and different backgrounds enriches everybody.
New enrolments in the Catalan HE system

Flexibility
Reachability
Diversity
Complementarity

Online and blended complement traditional courses
Mobility and cooperation with other universities

Data for the academic year 2016/2017
UOC students with functional diversity

- **Flexibility**
- **Reachability**
- **Diversity**
- **Complementarity**
- **Inclusiveness**

Access for those with no access

Students with official disability certificate greater than or equal to 33%
Number of students who have requested adaptations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Students with official disability certificate</th>
<th>Number of students who have requested adaptations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017-2018</td>
<td>1,396</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-2017</td>
<td>1,295</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-2016</td>
<td>1,064</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014-2015</td>
<td>915</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013-2014</td>
<td>873</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
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<td>2012-2013</td>
<td>793</td>
<td>112</td>
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…but what about challenges and drawbacks?
OCDE says ALL means 400 million people by 2030*.

That means we should be creating two universities for 20,000 students per day during the next 20 years.

* www.oecd.org/edu/skills-beyond-school/highereducationto2030vol1demography.htm
We said FOR ALL

Tech. dependence

Strong investment in technology and maintenance
We said FOR ALL
Tech. dependence
Dig. literacy needed

Students, teachers, tutors, management staff, …
We said FOR ALL

Tech. dependence

Dig. literacy needed

Quality assurance

Avoid the quality-quantity equilibrium.

Quantity can be good!
We said FOR ALL
Tech. dependence
Dig. literacy needed
Quality assurance
Reputation & trust

We play with the same rules as the rest

TeSLA - An Adaptive Trust-based e-assessment System for Learning (H2020)

Total Budget: 7 M€ (6 M€ from EU)

18 Partners (130 members)
8 Universities 3 Quality Agencies
4 Research Centers 3 Enterprises

Adaptive trust-based e-assessment
We said FOR ALL

Tech. dependence

Dig. literacy needed

Quality assurance

Reputation & trust

Legal issues

Different legal systems around the world: contracts, use of data, …
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>We said FOR ALL</th>
<th>Legal issues</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tech. dependence</td>
<td>Reset the system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dig. literacy needed</td>
<td>We cannot copy+paste what we were doing till now</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality assurance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reputation &amp; trust</td>
<td></td>
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Whose is knowledge?

What about AI? And data?...
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<td>Ethical issues</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reputation &amp; trust</td>
<td>Are we…?</td>
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Invitation: UOC site visit February 27-28 2019 Barcelona
Grateful for your attention!