

## LIFELONG LEARNING AND THE RECOGNITION OF KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS ACQUIRED, MOOC AS A NEW CHALLENGE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

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### **Abstract:**

The path to knowledge and education has never been so open, varied and rich as it is today. We learn always and everywhere (in schools, tertiary education institutions and adult education, in the workplace, at home, with friends, on-line). In the last two years increasing number of people are developing competences and skills through MOOC (Massive Open Online Courses). The professional and personal needs of the individual dictate learning throughout life. By learning whether by intention or not, sometimes random, the individual is changing himself. In addition to formal education, other forms of learning are very important as well. We are often not aware of knowledge obtained in such manner and we therefore not attribute it sufficient value. Therefore, the need arises to formalize such knowledge. EU policies (and national legislations) allow us to do so. Our goal is to improve the ways in which we understand and evaluate the participation and achievements of individuals, particularly those achieved through non-formal education and informal learning. With recognition of knowledge and skills acquired through informal education and informal learning, lifelong learning is becoming the reality, and it will contribute to the approximation of the learning to the needs of society which is increasingly based on knowledge. MOOCs, with participants from all over the world, are becoming a good possibility to acquire contemporary knowledge from the most known universities like Stanford and Harvard. Therefore the recognition of openly acquired knowledge is a real new challenge for higher education.