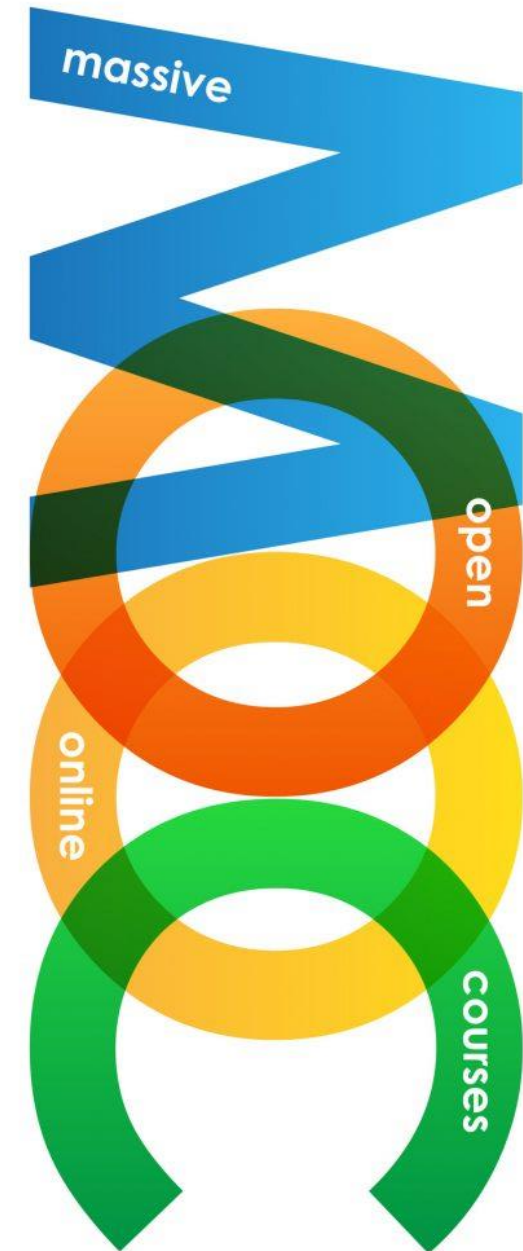


# MOOCS AND THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO NON- FORMAL LEARNING

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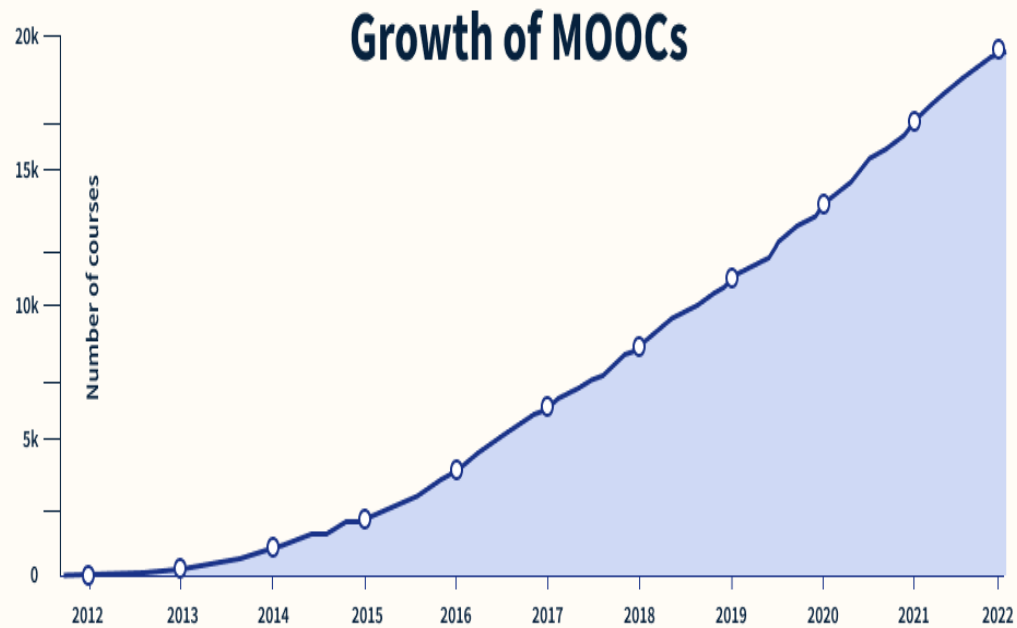
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MASSIVE OPEN ONLINE COURSES (**MOOCs**) ARE ONLINE COURSES DESIGNED FOR A LARGE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS THAT CAN BE ACCESSED BY ANYONE ANYWHERE, AS LONG AS THEY HAVE AN INTERNET CONNECTION.

Two forms of MOOCs have emerged.

In cMOOCs, learners are encouraged (though not required) to contribute actively via blog posts, tweets or other social media posts that are aggregated online by course organisers and shared with all participants via email or newsletters. The “c” stands for “connectivist” and the course approach is typically that learners pursue their own learning outcomes with a focus on community and connections.

xMOOCs, on the other hand, resemble traditional courses and more traditional higher education teaching methods are used. Pre-recorded video lectures and scalable forms of assessment are provided to learners who can interact in pre-set forums in a single platform rather than creating and/or sharing distributed content on the Web outside the platform.



By the Numbers: MOOCs in 2021  
*Statistics do not include China*

**220M**  
 Students

**950**  
 Universities

**19.4k**  
 Courses

**1670**  
 Microcredentials

**70**  
 MOOC-based degrees



By the Numbers: MOOCs in 2021  
*Statistics do not include China*

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<b>MOOCs key features</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Open Access</b>	MOOCs are accessible to anyone with an internet connection, regardless of their location or background
<b>Scalability</b>	MOOCs can accommodate a large number of learners simultaneously, thanks to online platforms and technology
<b>Diverse Course Offerings</b>	MOOCs cover a wide range of subjects and disciplines, catering to diverse interests and learning goals
<b>Interactive Learning</b>	MOOCs often include interactive elements like quizzes, assignments, and discussion forums to engage learners
<b>Flexibility</b>	MOOCs offer flexibility in terms of study pace and schedule, making them ideal for busy individuals

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## ADDITIONAL MOOC PLATFORMS ON THE MARKET TODAY

MOOC platform	Overview
<b>FUN</b>	Operated by the FUN MOOC Public Interest Group, FUN offers free academic courses and professional training in various subjects. It also offers for-fee coursework for certificates and diplomas. FUN offers courses in 10 languages, with most in French and a significant number in English
<b>FutureLearn</b>	FutureLearn offers courses from 260-plus institutions, allowing learners to enroll in individual courses, pursue micro-credentials and degrees, and connect with other learners. The platform focuses on professional progression and learning, with varying costs for its programs
<b>Iversity</b>	Created by Springer Nature, Iversity offers numerous MOOCs in English and other languages across academic and professional disciplines. Courses are available for free or for a fee
<b>Kadenze</b>	Kadenze partners with universities and institutions to deliver online lessons in art and creative technology. The platform offers courses, micro-courses, and programs at varying costs
<b>MITx Online</b>	MITx Online offers courses created by MIT faculty and instructors, delivered through the Open EdX platform. Learners can enroll for free or pay for a certificate of completion. Courses include interactive components, discussion forums, videos, readings, and tools to enhance learning
<b>OpenClassrooms</b>	OpenClassrooms offers over 500 free-access courses in professional topics, as well as training programs for individual learners and businesses

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## ADDITIONAL MOOC PLATFORMS ON THE MARKET TODAY

MOOC platform	Overview
<b>OpenHPI</b>	OpenHPI, from the Hasso Plattner Institute, offers MOOCs in IT, digital health, and design thinking in both German and English. HPI also has a white-label platform, mooc.house, for enterprises and institutions to teach their own stakeholders
<b>OpenLearning</b>	OpenLearning offers short courses, micro-credentials, and degrees at varying costs
<b>The Open University/OpenLearn</b>	The Open University's OpenLearn platform offers free short courses, articles, quizzes, and videos covering a wide range of subjects. Learners can earn statements of participation and digital badges
<b>Saylor Academy</b>	Saylor Academy offers nearly 100 free online courses in college- and professional-level subjects, including business and academic topics
<b>Stanford Online</b>	Stanford Online offers self-paced professional development lessons, graduate education, fee-based classes, and free online courses taught by Stanford instructors and industry experts
<b>SWAYAM</b>	SWAYAM, launched by the Government of India's Ministry of Education, offers courses in English and Hindi, with video lectures, reading material, self-assessment, and online discussion forums
<b>XuetangX</b>	XuetangX, launched by Tsinghua University and Ministry of Education Research Center for Online Education, is the first Chinese MOOC platform. It partners with nearly two dozen educational institutions to offer online courses and certificate and degree programs in various disciplines

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## UKRAINIAN MOOC PLATFORMS

MOOC platform	Overview
<b>Prometheus</b>	The Prometheus platform aims to create online courses for everyone free of charge. It collaborates with top educational institutions and international organizations to implement blended learning effectively. The platform strives to revolutionize education and improve lives. It actively cooperates with international organizations like IREX Ukraine, British Council, and USAID
<b>EdEra</b>	EdEra's educational project introduces innovative solutions in traditional education, focusing on quality national education. The online education studio develops online courses and interactive textbooks with an individualized approach to students. EdEra's main areas include school, vocational, civic, and corporate education. It actively collaborates with Ukraine and international organizations such as the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, IREX Ukraine, and VOX Ukraine
<b>OUM</b>	The OUM online platform provides civic education through non-formal online education. It belongs to the public organization with the same name, promoting active public participation and forming civic competencies among all residents of the country

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## BENEFITS OF MOOCS IN NON-FORMAL LEARNING

<b>Benefit</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Flexibility</b>	Learners can access course materials and complete coursework at their own pace, fitting learning into their existing schedules
<b>Accessibility</b>	MOOCs are available online, eliminating geographical barriers and allowing anyone with an internet connection to participate
<b>Catering to Diverse Learning Needs</b>	MOOCs offer a variety of learning formats (video lectures, interactive exercises, discussion forums, quizzes) to cater to different learning styles
<b>Cost-Effectiveness</b>	Many MOOC platforms offer free courses with the option to pay a minimal fee for verified certificates, making them a budget-friendly option for skill development

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# CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS OF MOOCS

<b>Low Completion Rates</b>	On average, only 5.5% of MOOC learners complete their courses, with even lower completion rates in emerging economies, at under 1%.
<b>Access Disparity</b>	In 2019, MOOCs had 110 million students worldwide, but just 12% of learners came from low-income countries, highlighting the digital divide
<b>Lack of Target Audience</b>	Half of the clientele for the MOOC platform Coursera are people at companies, suggesting a disconnect between MOOCs and their intended audience
<b>Engagement Challenges</b>	The average MOOC attracts around 43,000 students, but approximately 8% of them are teachers, indicating a potential lack of engagement from educational professionals
<b>Employment Status</b>	61% of MOOC learners are employed full-time, which may affect their ability to dedicate time to completing courses
<b>Limited Impact on Non-Student Population</b>	In 2020, 75% of MOOC users were non-students, suggesting that MOOCs may not be reaching their intended audience effectively
<b>Credential Recognition</b>	While MOOCs offer certificates of completion, their value may be limited, as approximately 80% of MOOC participants already hold a bachelor's degree or higher
<b>Completion Motivation</b>	Coursera reports that over 60% of their users take MOOCs to enhance their career prospects, but completion rates remain low
<b>Quality Assurance</b>	EdX has reported a 59% completion rate for students who sign up for a verified certificate, indicating a need for improved course quality and engagement strategies
<b>Educational Background</b>	Among the 34% of MOOC learners who are over 30, most hold a Bachelor's degree or higher, suggesting that MOOCs may not be effectively reaching less-educated populations
<b>Geographical Reach</b>	While 35% of Coursera's users come from developing countries, the completion rates in these regions remain low, indicating challenges in engaging learners from diverse backgrounds
<b>Course Satisfaction</b>	EdX MOOCs receive an average user rating of 75 out of 100, indicating room for improvement in course quality and user experience
<b>Market Saturation</b>	By the end of 2021, there were 19,400 MOOCs worldwide, suggesting a highly competitive market that may limit the impact of individual courses

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## SUMMARY

Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) offer many benefits for non-formal learning, providing learners worldwide with flexibility, accessibility, and cost-effectiveness. However, they also face challenges such as low completion rates, unequal access, and limited impact on certain populations. Addressing these challenges requires continuous innovation and improvements in design, delivery, and engagement strategies.

- MOOCs can be developed with interactive and engaging content to increase course completion rates.
- Policymakers should promote digital literacy and provide access to technology to bridge the digital divide.
- Practitioners should consider MOOCs as a complement to traditional education, offering opportunities for lifelong learning and skills development.

By addressing these challenges and implementing these recommendations, educators, policy makers and practitioners can use MOOCs to promote non-formal learning and provide accessible educational opportunities to learners around the world.

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Thank you for your attention!