

# Consideration on online education in Romania

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## ABSTRACT

Using the online learning platform provides a dynamic training program at substantially reduced costs compared with the conventional systems. They ensure the development of a scalable products, secure online access to thousands of students even for distance learning, offering them the books available online, multimedia support, etc.. Outside the curriculum it was developed a flexible verification and scoring system, uploading projects, maintaining a permanent online contact between students on the one side and between students and lecturers on the other side. In the online lessons there may be audio or video links between students and lecturer, when the session administrator believes that certain aspects need to be developed in this way. Ensuring for a convenient program of resources access may allow students to structure better the learning period.

**Keywords:** globalization; Global Governance; online education; LMS System; CMS System

## 1. INTRODUCTION

At a time when the internet access becomes easier, and students are increasingly attracted to virtual space, developing an online education system can combine the need for young people knew and the desire to spend more time on the computer. Adding a proper multimedia support can make a course attractive enough so that the rate of assimilation of new concepts can be far superior to traditional courses. The development of online education systems may be minimal compromise between the need for knowledge and lack of time for study.

## 2. ONLINE EDUCATION IN ROMANIA

Online Education is a modern process, but unfortunately not always properly understood even by the providers of such education models. Often online education is minimized to simple online presentation of learning materials and possibly short online tests (Bates, 2000; Traisatru, 2013; Cotoc, Traistaru, 2013).

There are unfortunately even universities that claim with online modules for a range of disciplines, but presents only curriculum that students can download and read later "when they have time." Of course, this is a step forward but a system for online education involves a more serious approach.

This small step is made in the direction of the curricula management, but requires standardization for the educational online system in its own manner of each unit in addition to respect standards that the original pattern of each unit can assure a faster assimilation uptake by students.

They do not have to discover for each discipline the logic of presentation of each course (Borowski, 2013; Avram, Traistaru, 2014). Curricula management should be similar to various courses so that students should be concerned only with the substance of the course and not with the forms of different presentation from a course or another. This fact involves a comprehensive integration of their curriculum in the school system.

Management education system curriculum should require management standard a series of directives to be followed, of course, for elements of originality in the different materials that lend themselves to particular approaches (Brint, 2006; Vlăduțescu, 2013).

A simple model of all courses may require common standard such as blocking access to some part of the course for students who haven't passed a series of tests, had no projects, or are not participating in online forums of discussion for the discipline. Another element is that some modules could integrate some video presentation and factors of production directly involved in practical problems can be invited for some practical explanations for the theoretical course.

Also from time to time or even permanently online video seminars may be held. Last but not least small groups of students can be present simultaneously for the development of mini online projects, supervised by an assistant (Borowski, 2014; Drămnescu, 2013). These could be just some of the items you need to define the educational system and in particular the curriculum management.

The simple presence of the online courses and tests that can be supported by students "anytime" is inappropriate unless it provides a permanent connection between students and the educational system.

There are certainly shy students, students who work part time or full time, there are students, who do nothing all day but can not find time to learn. The system does not have to leave the option to postpone indefinitely a test project etc. (Ferrer, Minguillón, 2011; Smarandache, Vlăduțescu, 2013; Smarandache, Vlăduțescu, 2014).

The great advantage of learning "anytime students have time" which boasts a series of online educational institutions represent a big danger threatening the future of online education. With his functions of organization and control, the educational management must manage very discreetly, but firmly the time dedicated to study by his students.

Can be used a number of constraints outside those specified, such period for submission of projects to be extremely tight, supporting tests should be done in one day, in a narrow interval of time so that the same student is not able to support a test for another student, etc.

The presence of students must be permanent and active throughout the course, or it cannot be achieved without a proper educational management.

Although definitely have a cost lower than traditional courses, online education has its financial costs and there is an important cost management system to determine the usefulness of acquisition (dedicated servers, broadcasting systems - video presentations, etc.).

### **3. LMS, CMS SYSTEMS**

Online learning platforms are software, mostly free, available to users who support the presentation of curriculum, tests, etc. necessary for the study. Known as Learning Management System or Content Management System (there are other names and abbreviations) they can

manage only broad management or management curriculum of the educational system, providing tools for development and presentation of course content. Ultimately the two concepts begin to interpenetrate and there is still some debate on integration in LMS or CMS system.

Extensive use of materials universally accepted (file type doc, pdf, xls, Flash, etc.) determine this concept not to be so important. (Hillar, 2011).

We will present some details about the Moodle platform (other platforms used are Claroline, ATutor, TCEexam, DoceboLMS, Omeka etc.).

First it should be noted that there are no restrictions on the operating system. Moodle runs without modification on Unix, Linux, FreeBSD, Windows, Mac OS X, NetWare and any other system that supports PHP and a database.

Moodle has many features considered typical for an educational platform plus some original innovations (such as its filtering system). Moodle is very similar to a learning management system. Moodle can be used in many areas such as: in education, training and development, business environment (Stocker, 2011; Stavre, 2012; Bărbulescu, 2013).

Developers can extend the platform's modular construction Moodle by creating new plugins that have specific functions - types of resources, types of questions (multiple choice, true or false, "fill space", etc.) Graphical themes, methods authentication (may require username and password access), application methods, content filters, quizzes or quiz questions, import / export in a number of formats: GIFT (format of Moodle), IMS QTI, XML or XHTML.

Moodle allows different kinds of questions: calculations, descriptions, essays, match answers built multiple choice, short answers, numeric answers, short answers matching randomly placed, true / false.

#### **4. COURSE IMPLEMENTATION**

We briefly present the options in a course implementation.

##### **A. Establishing the general format of the course**



Initially it will be mentioned the category of the course (ie. Management III year), the title of the course, course format (weekly, social, SCORM, etc.), duration, start date of the course.


You can set also some details of show or unshow marks obtained by students, the presentation of the hidden formats, if it's not a public display or an activity report, the maximum size of files that students can upload etc. (Dragotă, Dragotă, Țățu, Țățu, 2009; Enăchescu, 2013).

Also at the beginning students can form groups that will have some joint activities and determine how to access the course (free, password based, guest access).


### Edit course settings


**General**




Category  Management an III 














Course full name\*  Managementul educației online













Course short name\* MEO

Course ID number  001

Course summary 


Font family  Font size  Paragraph 



**B** *I* U ABC x<sub>2</sub> x<sup>2</sup>             


           HTML 





Educația online est un proces modern, dar din păcate nu totdeauna chiar de către furnizorii unor astfel de modele de educație. De multe ori este minimizată la simpla prezentare online a unor materiale didactice și scurte teste online.

Path: p

HTML format 

Format  Weekly format 

Number of weeks/topics 10 

Course start date  6  June  2011 

## B. Setting the course's activities and resources

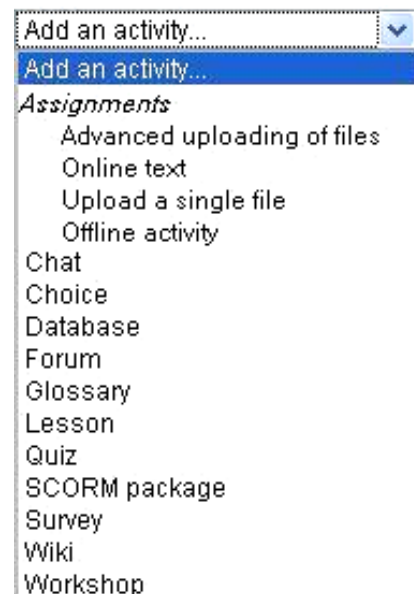
Each course can be added to a series of activities. We present some of the most important:

**Assignments** – they are completed by the student completely offline, themes that they upload to the site, receiving a note. They are required by the teacher and have established criteria for scoring.

**Choices** - used for a more consistent feedback, elections are asked by the class teacher. They can be displayed or can be known only to teachers and students who responded.

**Journal** - Each student may be attached to a journal, accessible only by student and instructor.

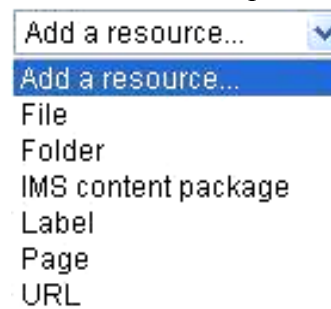
**Lesson** - The lessons are web pages, displayed in a given order based on student responses to certain questions. These questions are designed to test the degree to which the



material was understood. Correct answers enable the browsing of the next material while wrong answers conduct the student to intermediate pages. This branching, well-managed can be an extremely useful interesting scroll of the selecting materials only in the interest of the student. The instructor can determine if the student has a limited access to every page, if you can return to previous pages etc. There are also pages with options to jump to specific chapters.

**Quiz** - sets of questions that can be used even in other courses. You can create questions and define the categories of questions. It can be fixed on the test, the deadline to support the test, the test, the number of attempts allowed. The teacher can choose from a variety of types of questions with multiple answers, one correct answer, the short answer, numeric response, true or false, matching, embedded answers, etc.

*Resources* that can be attached to the course are files, directories, HTML, URL and represents course materials which can be a real help for students.



## 5. CONCLUSION

Online education involves students, teacher, proper services and content. All these elements cannot be managed independently, since learning is a combination of these factors.

Trying to reproduce the traditional process of learning from teacher to student based on a producer consumer model (One to Many) is easily exceeded. The concept of learning itself has changed the focus to the interaction between student and curriculum, and from this point of view the online education systems have a considerable advantage.

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