

May 4th, 2020

Invitation for Participation

Mohammed VI Polytechnic University UM6P (Kingdom of Morocco) & Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne EPFL (Switzerland), partners in the "Excellence in Africa" initiative, have decided to join forces to help mitigate the effects of the current crisis. Very concretely, we propose to make available to the consortium of African Universities members of the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM), a serie of educational resources (MOOCs, and other e-learning resources) that can be freely used by the teachers and students.

In order to present in detail our initiative and the stakes of using e-Learning during this new reality of social distancing, we will organize a first Webinar of 1 hour on Thursday, May 14th (time TBD). The objective is on the one hand to present the resources made available and how they can be used, and on the other hand to explain the implications for each institution with, in particular, the appointment of focal points for the implementation of the project.

Subsequently, the institutions integrating the initiative will be able to take part in a 2nd seminar to structure the e-Learning operations. Teachers wishing to integrate the initiative will also have the option of attending five 1hour 30min hand-on workshop the use and integration of the digital resources offered in their teaching.

We invite participants to respond by return mail (to: african.initiative@um6p.ma) before Tuesday, May 8, and to confirm their participation (or that of their representatives) in the Webinar on Thursday, May 14.

We look forward to hearing from you very soon. Please accept, dear colleague, the expression of our best regards.



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Executive Vice-President
UM6P
Kingdom of Morocco



M. Jérôme Chenal
Directeur
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Annex

Dissemination of MOOCs in Africa A joint initiative of EPFL and UM6P

First phase:

2 information and awareness-raising seminars

Seminar No 1. Online educational resources as a response to the crisis COVID-19

Audience: Directors of institutions (Rectors, Vice-Chancellors, Presidents); Academic Directors (VP-A, Pro-VC, ...); Heads of Digital Education

Objectives :

1. To inform about the possibility of using existing MOOCs and OERs to carry on teaching remotely.
2. Present and explain the concept of MOOCs and OERs, as well as the initial list of available resources.
3. To present the conditions for participation in the project (commitment of the institution, appointment of local officers for organization and monitoring – one for academic affairs and one for IT coordination, adjustments in academic guidelines).

Suggested date: 14 May 2020.

Format: 1 hour webinar (by invitation, via Zoom), followed by 15' of discussion

Seminar No 2. The use of online educational resources in higher education

Audience: Heads of Digital Education, project focal points (academic affairs and IT coordination officers), motivated lecturers.

Objectives :

1. To present and explain the process of integration of MOOCs and OERs into the formal teaching of universities.
2. To present the different options for managing an online and distance learning class.
3. To identify the needs in terms of infrastructure for the operationalization of the project.
4. To establish a schedule of operations for the organization of lecturer training workshops.

Suggested date: 20 May 2020.

Format: 1 hour webinar (by invitation, via Zoom), followed by 15' of discussion

**Second phase:
5 lecturer training seminars**

Seminars 3 to 7. Training of lecturers in the use and integration of online educational resources in their courses

Audience: Project focal points; lecturers wishing to join the project.

Objectives (to be further refined after the first two seminars):

1. To identify the needs in terms of teaching resources for distance learning.
2. To structure the pedagogical project according to the training objectives and the real environment of distance education. Become familiar as a learner with a MOOC of the platform and a OER.
3. To learn how to manage students registered in the Open edX platform and how to run private classes.
4. Use synchronous and asynchronous communication tools in the educational context.
5. Work on the appropriation of a MOOC or an OER and its integration in the training curriculum.
6. To learn how to lead a class around MOOCs and OERs and evaluating students (participation and MCQ).

Suggested date: May 25 to 29, 2020.

Format: 1 Webinar of 1h30 per day, followed by individual work, for 5 days.