

Open Education 2030

Call for Vision Papers

School Education

ON-LINE CURRICULUM COURSES IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Andreea D. Suci

In 2030 on-line courses are the best format for the secondary school education.

THE BEGINNING OF THE ON-LINE COURSES FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

The epiphany of 2013 revolution in learning began with the questions: Why use Internet just as an auxiliary resource for learning? Why not use the Internet as a cost and time saving efficient means of conveying knowledge in secondary schools all around Europe? Back then, the model was already used in universities, where long distance courses were available. As it proved over the last 15 years, high school students benefitted largely from such courses on so many levels: they were able to learn at their own pace, they could revisit the teacher's lecture and notes, they had more time for experiments, blended learning, informal and non-formal approaches to teaching provided by motivated teachers. And let us not forget one of the main gains of on-line education: as the generations of students were being more and more digital, they found that such a course was more appealing and natural to them than a traditional pen and paper one.

UP TO 50% OF THE CURRICULAR COURSES ARE ON-LINE COURSES

In the beginning, i.e. in 2013, each school produced a 10 per cent of their courses on-line, as part of a European pilot programme. This per cent was gradually increased up to 50 per cent. A good balance between on-line courses and face-to-face courses was established. An educational platform in each school permitted teachers to produce their own courses, assign homework, communicate with students, and offer feedback. Especially in remote areas where students had to travel 20 km or more to go to school, a simple tablet with Internet access solved the problem of time and costs efficiency.

ON-LINE COURSES OFFER SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS MORE TIME TO GAIN PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE

Having all the theoretical information available on the on-line platform teachers concentrate more on practical methods of learning: experiments, seminar work, informal and non-formal learning. For vocational schools this also meant more time for students to gain experience by actually working in firms and companies at their choosing. For normal secondary schools the 2 days off school per week allows students to work a part-time job and thus gain some financial independency and also put some money away for college. The work experience they acquire also boost their CVs and employability rates. So, after more than 15 years of fully using the *on-line course system for secondary students*, the whole world sees the prophetic vision that Europe had in 2013 and began applying it to their own systems.



CONCLUSIONS

In 2030, using the Internet as a means of conveying knowledge is just the natural thing to do. Historically speaking, the learning systems always incorporated the latest “technology” into the learning/teaching process. First, there was a stick and some sand where teacher and students could write and draw things; then came the wax table and the stylus, then some chalk and a blackboard, pen and paper and now, finally, it is time for the “virtual pen” to enter the scene. Thus, the new generations are more and more digitally proficient and willing to master their learning, to dictate their own pace of learning and to gain practical experience by working in real companies.