

University of Aveiro (PT), 05-07 June 2019

University Lifelong Learning to Live a Better Life – Continuing Education for Sustainable Quality of Life in Europe

Authors: Kaire KESKÜLA, Tuuli RASSO, Lehti PILT, Ülle KESLI

Institution: University of Tartu

Strand: Wellbeing in a Digital Age

Public sector-university cooperation: MOOCs on environmental audit

Supreme Audit Institutions from all over the world engage in the assessment of environmental tools and policies implemented by their governments and public authorities. The National Audit Office of Estonia has extensive experience in environmental audit and has for over 10 years been steering the work of international environmental auditing working groups. MOOCs are a cost-effective way to share this expertise with peers from around the world as well as with non-auditors interested in public sector environmental policies.

The University of Tartu and National Audit Office of Estonia have since 2016 in cooperation developed and implemented three MOOCs on environmental audit:

Introduction to Environmental Auditing in the Public Sector, Auditing Environmental Impacts of Infrastructure and Auditing Water Issues (under the aegis of EUROSAI Working Group on Environmental Auditing (WGEA)).

The fourth course, Auditing Waste Issues is under development and is based on the practice of several Supreme Audit Institutions from around the world that collaborate within the environmental audit working group of the International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI WGEA).

The volume of each course is 26 hours (1 ECTS).

The technical implementation of the MOOC study materials is based on the Sisu@UT environment (<https://sisu.ut.ee> and for the management of MOOCs the university's Moodle environment (<https://moodle.ut.ee>) has been used.

All three MOOCs have received the e-course quality mark in Estonian e-University quality mark application round this year and one of them is nominated for the title "E-course of the year 2019". Digital learning material package supports the achievement of learning outcomes, being well-structured, instructive, illustrated, interactive, giving automatic feedback and suitable for independent learning of learners with different learning styles. Learning materials package includes content (text, videos), learning activities and assessment to fulfil learning objectives.

In total, the courses have been conducted seven times, with 879 participants from 98 countries with 1357 times of participation. 105 people have participated in all three courses, 236 at least two courses and 538 at least one course.

More than ten participants have been from the following countries: Estonia, Indonesia, Thailand, Spain, Iran, Jamaica, South Africa, Albania, Fiji, Cameroon, Kuwait, Botswana, Nigeria, Samoa, Australia, Zambia, Romania, Latvia, Austria, Czech Republic, Serbia, Namibia, Lesotho, Argentina.

The participants of our MOOCs value the open and self-based, flexible format of the courses and have also found the content relevant and applicable in their work environment. The variety of study materials – ranging from traditional reading format to videos and forum discussions – has also been underlined as one important strength of MOOCs.