“The EU in Global Governance”

...or how I became a MOOC-practitioner

Joris Larik
Conference on Higher Education as Commerce, Porto, 9-11 October 2014
Structure

1. The idea
2. The grant
3. The course
4. Merits
5. Challenges
6. Take-away & outlook
The idea

* teach transnational subjects transnationally
* add to the curricula of the “average” university
* add value by crafting a knowledge consortium
* move beyond 101
The grant

* 10 grants of 25,000 EUR each
* *Stifterverband für die Deutsche Wissenschaft*
* iversity-platform
* open competition with over 250 entries
* courses must be free and open
* rights to content retained by producers
The course: general

* 'The EU in Global Governance’
* interdisciplinary: law and international relations
* global challenges
* smart tools & interactive
* human resources: consortium representatives, academic coordinator, media coordinator, 14 expert contributors, technicians, 2 TAs
The course: production

* between July 2013 and April 2014
* considerable need for coordination
* scripting of (short!) presentations
* 3 filming sessions in Florence and Leuven
* staggered post-production
* procurement of course materials (permissions from publishers)
The course: structure

* 6 chapters = 7 weeks

* Per chapter:
  
  • 1 concept video
  
  • 1 expert interview
  
  • 2 mini quizzes (MC)
  
  • discussion prompts

* 1 Mini-Essay and 1 Final Quiz
The course: a snapshot

Which of the following conditions provided for in Article XXIV:5 and :8 of the GATT does not apply to regional economic integration agreements (such as the EU)?

- The abolition of all customs duties and other restrictions of commerce between the members.
- The introduction of a common customs tariff.
- The setting of a common customs tariff not higher than the tariff applied prior to the establishment of the regional economic integration agreement.
The course: Activation

* Launch April 2014
* About 16000 students registered start
* About 20000 by the end
* 641 received certificate of participation
**Merits**

* Share greatest quality of expertise with greatest number of students

* Pool of experts with renowned professors and practitioners

* Possible to reach global audience with non-introductory law/social science course

* Match transnational scope of course with transnational faculty & students

* Post-course survey: 65 % “very satisfied”
Challenges (2)

* Lack of “focal point”/moderator/host
* Lack of means for verification
* Lack of anti-plagiarism tools
* Lack of communicating violations of “house rules”
* Lack of credit points (exception: hybrid approach)
Also in law/social sciences, there can be massive but non-basic online courses

* Consortium able to provide pool of expertise no single university could offer

* Massive at the beginning → hard core of several hundred active and enthusiastic students

* Law & soc. Science MOOCs with old and new challenges
...and outlook

* “Audit track” (free) & “certificate track” (for pay)
* online proctored exams
* Grades and signed certificates
* ECTS track → classic exams
* Hybridization of MOOCs and classroom