

## **OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES (OER) AND INTERCULTURAL KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE IN IT EDUCATION**

The evolution of digital education has led to unprecedented opportunities for global knowledge exchange, with Open Educational Resources (OER) emerging as powerful tool for democratizing learning. These platforms are reformatting how educational content is created, shared, and accessed across cultural and geographical borders, particularly in IT education. According to an UNESCO OER online forum, OER can be defined as “...materials used to support education that may be freely accessed, reused, modified and shared by anyone” OER may include full courses, course materials, modules, textbooks, videos, tests, software, and any other tools, materials or techniques used to support access to different kinds of knowledge. The complexity of the OER may vary from very simple (e.g., a single video clip or a single illustration) to rather complex (e.g., comprising a series of lessons) [2, p.139].

MOOCs have fundamentally transformed the accessibility landscape of education by dramatically reducing barriers to participation compared to traditional learning environments. They offer structured learning opportunities with minimal financial burden, providing learners with flexibility regarding time, pace, and location of study. The importance of digital resource accessibility is widely acknowledged in e-learning contexts, with information and communications technology (ICT) offering significant opportunities for people with disabilities and older adults to improve wellbeing through socialization, lifelong learning, and employability enhancement [1, p.147].

The MOOC ecosystem is diverse and dynamic, providing numerous opportunities for online learning. Major platforms like Coursera, edX, and Udemy offer a wide variety of courses from leading institutions, catering to

learners from various backgrounds and interests. These platforms have significantly expanded global access to education, offering flexible and affordable learning options. In Ukraine, several MOOC platforms are making significant strides in transforming education and expanding access to learning opportunities. These platforms not only cater to traditional academic subjects but also play a crucial role in enhancing business education and vocational skills. Prometheus Platform stands out as a pioneer in democratizing education by offering free online courses in collaboration with prestigious educational institutions and international. Starting 2014 it hosts over 400 courses across various disciplines, engaged 2 860 000 learners by 2024. Its partnerships with international bodies like IREX Ukraine, British Council, and USAID underscore its commitment to global educational standards. Additionally, Prometheus and the U.S. Embassy have teamed up to forge a pioneering educational initiative, offering Ukrainians valuable access to the world's premier courses at no cost and in their native language. Over the next three years, Prometheus will provide 50 online courses from prestigious global universities in Ukrainian, delivering substantial educational value to learners. The program features courses from esteemed institutions including Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, University of Michigan, Johns Hopkins University, Duke University, University of Illinois, and University of California [2, p. 3].

**Conclusion.** The rise of Open Educational Resources (OER) and Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) has revolutionized global education, breaking down financial, geographical, and accessibility barriers. Platforms like Coursera, edX, and Ukraine's Prometheus demonstrate how digital education can democratize learning, offering flexible, high-quality courses to diverse audiences. Particularly in Ukraine, initiatives like Prometheus—with its partnerships with leading international institutions—highlight the transformative potential of MOOCs in business education and vocational training. As digital education continues to evolve, its role in fostering lifelong learning, employability, and inclusive knowledge-sharing will only grow more vital,

shaping the future of education worldwide.

## REFERENCES

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