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Will online courses kill "physical" universities?

More and more online courses, offered by an increasing number of universities and schools, with students in continuous growth. What is the future of physical universities?

An interesting article published on the website of Il Sole 24 ore tries to understand, with facts and figures, if "physical" universities risk in the future of being overtaken by their virtual versions, which provide the so-called MOOC (Massive Open Online Courses).

The question arises from the continuous increase of online courses (about 9.400 at the time of writing this piece) proposed by an increasing number of universities (over 800) for a total of over 78 million students in training. However, the worldwide range of MOOC courses is always accessible in real time on the Class Central website.

The names of the most famous university platforms are those of American Cousera (which combines six US universities including Stanford and Princeton, with 23 million registered users), edX (that of Mit of Boston and Harvard, with 10 million users) of the Chinese XuetangX (with 6 million users), of the British FutureLearn (with 5.3 million users) and of Udacity (with 4 million users).

The great success of this training method is due to the fact that MOOCs have several advantages over the physical classes: personalized study times, potentially unlimited number of students at the same time, possibility for everyone to access the courses, free or relatively low cost of the courses, but above all the offer of innovative contents in topics and contents of the trainings.

But how will the MOOCs of the future be? And are physical universities really likely to disappear in favour of their online versions?

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