



D-TRANSFORM
TRANSFORMING
UNIVERSITIES OF THE
DIGITAL AGE



MUTATIONS AND TRANSFORMATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

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Since the late eighties and particularly in Europe, University is an organization which handles mutations and transformations. Overly rare are the studies which analyze the features of universities, as intricate organizations, and reveal, in an international and comparative perspective, their utmost diversity. Whether it is about sociability or student rallying, the available courses, operating and academic administration forms, or kaleidoscope of the part assigned by teachers themselves, turned into “academic entrepreneurs” (experts, counsellor, manager, initiator of certificates, branches, laboratories, etc.).

Starting from a perspective leading to a better understanding of the university operating – “weakly bound organizations” to quote the Karl E. Weick’s expression from 1976 – the project called D TRANSFORM wishes to grasp, through studies of concrete cases executed in countries from the different project partners, higher education in its multiplicity constituted of inhomogeneous university worlds. Rather than presume of the existence of any “university system”, we will identify a set of pertinent specifications in order to establish a digital strategy of institutions.

In order to study the different orientations, D-TRANSFORM is going to survey policies and digital strategies of universities in partner Countries (France, Hungary, Italy, Spain, and United Kingdom), considering also hints from other relevant EU-funded projects (e.g. POERUP, UNIQUe). D-TRANSFORM will then select and analyze initiatives related to OERs and MOOCs across partner Countries”. A specific part will be devoted to policies for a digital strategy.

The intention will also take an interest in interplays provided by universities with, on the one hand the territory, and on the other hand with the institutional and economic operators. Beyond that, topics such as the regulation of the development confronted with the evolution of student demographics, and the balance between the prerogatives of the state and the region. The project will also endeavor to the questions of the teacher recruitment, the understanding of the disciplinary logic, and the teacher’s ways of entrance to the profession (whether a pedagogic course or not...). The university courses provided will be approach under the perspectives of intern or extern procedures (whether authorized by the ministry or not), of access (open university courses and closed courses), of the connection between initial and continuing courses, and the role of the respective subjects and research. Compared to systems which further an “inflationary spiral” of degrees, it will be about understand other systems in order to draw the logical sequences and gain a clearer understanding of digital inputs.





Digital practices and technologies could concern several aspects of higher education institutions:

1. people involved in the learning process
 - learners of degree courses and further education, evolution of student demographics, new divides, seamless use of technology
 - teachers' role and recruitment, integration of teaching and research (including open access and dissemination on social media), academic and non-academic staff development
 - stakeholders, such as territory, institutional, and economic operators
2. teaching and learning practices
 - digital resources, such as OERs and MOOCs and their use to underpin promotion of HEIs, blended learning, and innovation
 - baseline / enhanced use of elearning and related pedagogical approaches, such as flipped classroom and active learning
 - HE curricula (e.g. interdisciplinarity in digital humanities; entrepreneurial subjects)
3. organisation

Methodology: in order to produce project outputs, D-TRANSFORM makes use of formal literature, informal literature (grey literature, such as blogs and reports), and hands-on inquiries. The project implements a multidisciplinary approach that leverages collaboration among computer science, humanities and social sciences researchers.

The ambition of D-TRANSFORM project is to produce recommendation headed to university supervisors implies to unite them very soon to the process of institution's characterization, and to try out with them proposals which can come from digital operators.

<http://www.dtransform.eu>

