

Open Data City Officer

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Deliverable D5.1

Development of OpenDCO online learning platform



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Document Metadata

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Abstract: The purpose of this document is to describe the e-learning platform that was developed to support the learning process throughout the pilot training in the OpenDCO project.





Document information

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Online leaning platform

The e-learning platform of the OpenDCO project comprises the tool to manage and mediate the delivery of the OpenDCO pilot online course. This course was decided to be offered as a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) as a MOOC can be made available to an unlimited number of trainees, ensuring that all who are really interested in acquiring the OpenDCO competences and, thus, receive the OpenDCO certification, can do so without restrictions.

From a technical perspective, there are numerous platforms to create a MOOC for educational purposes. The vast majority (e.g. Coursera, Udacity, MiriadaX, Alison, etc.) are offered for a fee and free options such as CourseSites (up to five courses per teacher) and Udemy are limited. Open edX stands out as a non-profit open-source platform used by leading universities to create and deliver MOOCs and is the only platform that allows self-hosting without any fees. Moodle, one of the most popular open-source Learning Management Systems (LMSs), has evolved to be able to support MOOCs and has already been used for MOOC delivery.

Both Moodle and Open edX are mature solutions with large and active communities, and they can both support the development and delivery of MOOCs. They provide similar functionalities to develop a MOOC, although Moodle remains more familiar to educators around the world who have been using it for years and have extensively exploited its educational tools and plug-ins. Moreover, Moodle tends to be more straightforward in terms of server configuration, user management, and localization. Moodle was eventually selected to build the OpenDCO e-learning platform due to the above and the fact that HOU, the partner responsible to develop it, has extensive experience on Moodle-based online courses as it has been using it for over one decade in all of its distance learning curricula. Another advantage of using Moodle centres around the fact that HOU runs and supports the continuous operation its own Moodle server which hosts a big collection of MOOCs. The OpenDCO MOOC will thus be maintained after the end of the project guarantying the sustainability of the project results.

The OpenDCO e-learning platform's home page is available at https://elearning.daissy.eu/course/index.php?categoryid=9, where brief descriptions of the project and the OpenDCO MOOC are provided as shown in Figure 1. The four (4) different courses offered by the project, one for each of the four supported languages (EN, GR, PT and DE) are available there. Important information, such as the starting date, the teachers/tutors and the number of enrolled learners is shown for each course (see Figure 2). Additionally, the project's e-learning platform home page includes information on the MOOCs' target groups and the project partners.





Open Data City Officer

Course Details





Course description

This course addresses the needs of future open data city officers in the compilation, management, maintenance, and utilization for value generation from open data. In particular, the learned skills will empower the learners to support municipalities, local/regional governments and policy makers in their planning, initiating, promoting, and supporting of all open data smart cities initiatives. Furthermore, the competences learnt in this course are beneficial for any type of ICT supplier in understanding and providing necessary IT infrastructure. Also, many different types of organisations ranging from

Learning goals

The main learning objectives of this course are to teach smart city staff and other relevant stakeholders of smart cities on how to:

- · identify smart city needs for open data,
- assess the ability of data resources and infrastructure to meet smart city's and stakeholder needs,
- organize, plan, and develop data sets and collections,
- · ensure the data quality and
- offer access to the data using data access methods,
- · use open data to generate insights,
- · visualize data insights for various purposes,

Figure 1. OpenDCO e-learning platform home page.





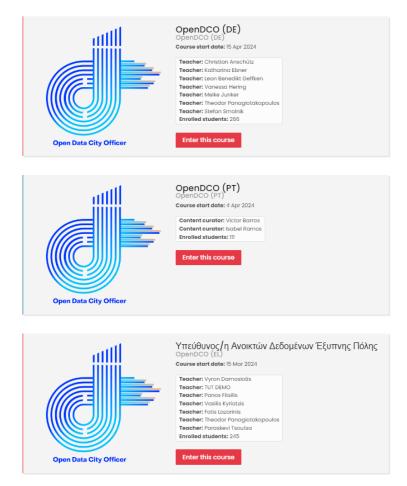


Figure 2. Available OpenDCO MOOCs based on delivery language

When a user enters one of the four courses, the login page is shown where the user is prompted to enter their login credentials as shown in Figure 3.

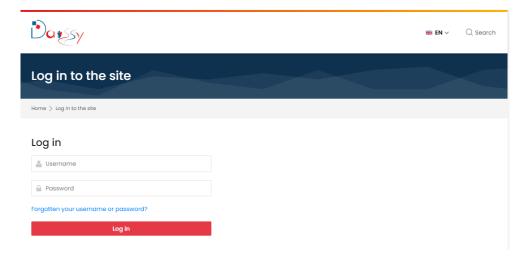


Figure 3. OpenDCO e-learning platform login page





When valid login credentials are provided users are navigated in the selected course's home page shown in Figure 4.

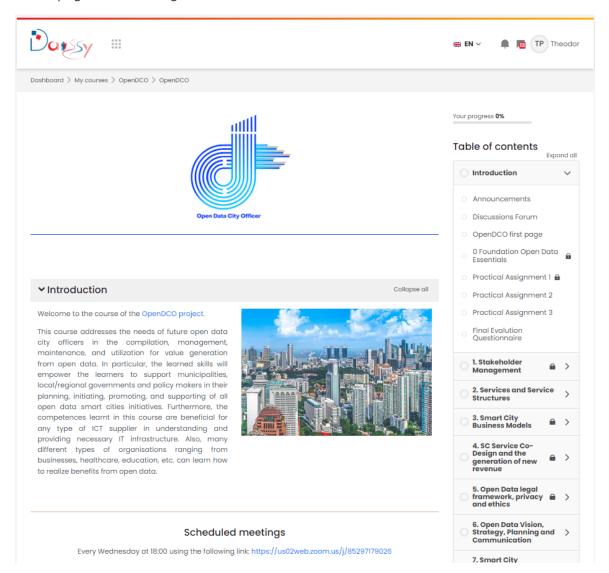


Figure 4. EN OpenDCO MOOC's home page

A course's home page includes various sections and menus facilitating navigation to the MOOC's content and access to its functionalities. The menu on the right (see Figure 5a) provides quick access to information concerning online meetings, announcements, course information, practical assignments, evaluation survey tool and module contents. Modules' contents can be accessed through a dropdown menu shown when the arrow next to each module's title is clicked as shown in Figure 5b.





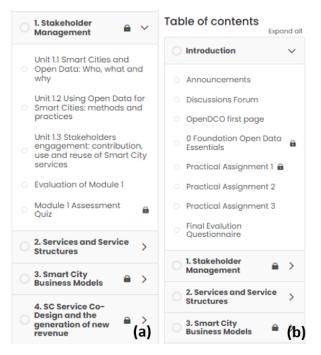


Figure 5. EN OpenDCO MOOC's home page

Moreover, scheduled meetings information is also provided through the course's home page, as well as announcements and discussion forums, practical assignments submission components and the final evaluation questionnaire, as shown in Figure 6.

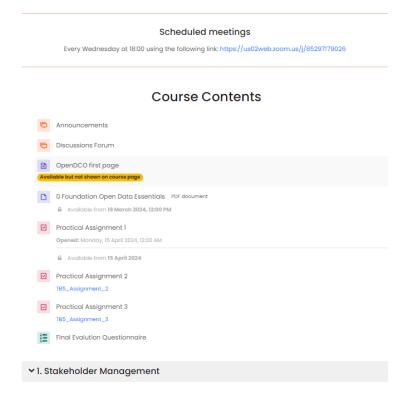


Figure 6. Forums, practical assignments and training sessions information





Each course's page includes all available learning modules which are shown to the learners in the order provided by the OpenDCO MOOC schedule (Figure 7 shows the first available training module). The right menu includes a completion bar indicating the number of modules with completed assessment tests and the course's calendar, which provides information on deadlines (e.g. for assessment tests), online synchronous training sessions and other events.



Figure 7. OpenDCO MOOC modules contents

When an item is clicked, the user is navigated to the respective content page. For example, Figure 8 shows the page of unit 1.1. Smart Cities and Open Data: Who, what and why which comprises the first unit out of three of module 1. Stakeholder Management. General information such as description, expected learning outcomes, keywords and estimated workload is provided. Then, the training material is accessible through an online viewer, while learners are also able to download it in pdf format.







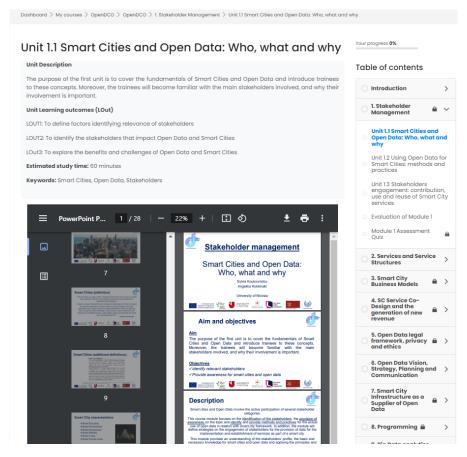


Figure 8. General information and training content of the OpenDCO MOOC's modules' units