akademien der wissenschaften schweiz
académies suisses des sciences
accademie svizzere delle scienze
academias svizras da las scienzas
swiss academies of arts and sciences

Network for Transdisciplinary Research td-net
2024

tdMOOC
Massive Open Online Course on Transdisciplinary Research

Author(s): Minea Mäder, Theres Paulsen

This open-access, self-paced online course, the Swiss tdMOOC, focuses on tackling complex societal challenges through transdisciplinary research. Through five illustrative projects, the course guides participants through the fundamental stages of transdisciplinary research, including its theoretical foundations, principles and real-world application. The td-net also provides opportunities for interaction and recommendations for using the material in the classroom.

The tdMOOC includes:

- Six chapters cover the definition, aims, concepts, pitfalls, opportunities, and ethical implications of transdisciplinary research, along with steps in the process.

- Examples of transdisciplinary projects in health care for mobile pastoralists, water scarcity in the Alps, coping with decline in a mountain village, labor migration, and governance of antimicrobial resistance.

- Guiding questions in each chapter.

- Asynchronous interaction year-round on our public whiteboard.

- Synchronous interaction through live online sessions within the learning group.

Why the tdMOOC?

1. Addresses the gap in adequate training on transdisciplinary apporoaches among students, researchers, policy makers and practitioners at their respective institutions

2. Enables equitable access across disciplines, levels of experience of academics and practitioners, and countries

3. Enhances self-reflection for individuals engaging in transdisciplinary research and equips them with skills necessary for making their research and projects more effective.

4. Supports the cultivation of a global community of learners

5. With its peer-learning format, it fosters an active exchange between co-learners which allows for   transformative learning

6. Promotes a wider adoption of the transdisciplinary approach among scholars and institutions creating a nuturing environment for addressing complex societal problems

How can I integrate the tdMOOC into curricula, lectures, courses and projects?

- Since the course is designed for self-study, it can be used at any time without registration or enrollment.

- A public, curated virtual whiteboard is available for communication and collaboration with other learners.

- Estimated study time: 30 hours

- Recommended amount of credits: 1-1.5 ECTS, (or up to 2 with further exploration of the course materials and written exercises)
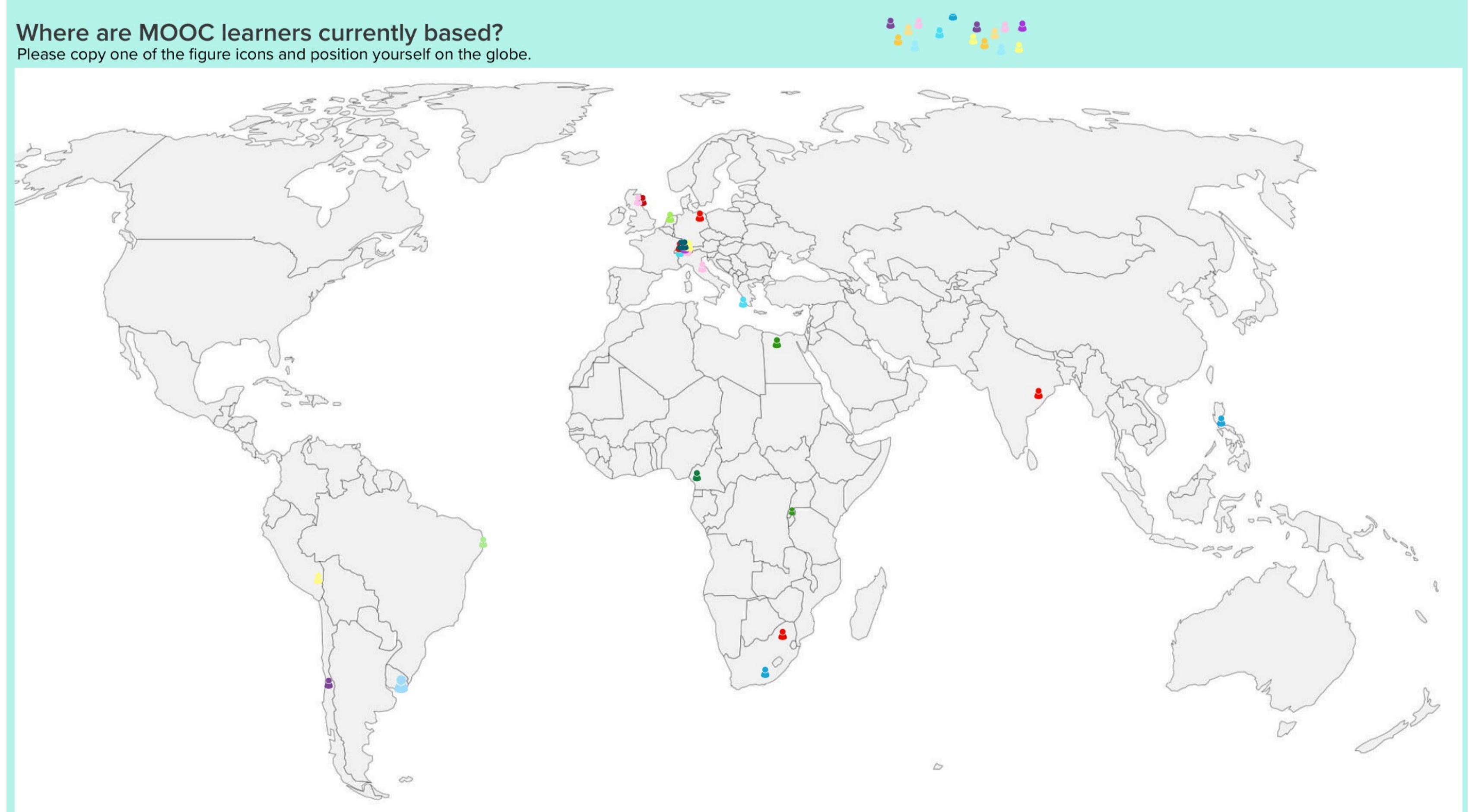
Course Content

Subscription to Learning Group

Course Description td-net

Geographical Distribution of the learning group participants 2024

Where are MOOC learners currently based?
Please copy one of the figure icons and position yourself on the globe.