

## **Massive Open Online Courses – New Ways of Tele-Teaching/E-Learning**

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**Abstract:** OpenHPI, the interactive online education platform at Hasso Plattner Institute (HPI), is one of the first platforms in Europe to offer freely accessible, massive open online courses. In a manner similar to the massive open online courses (MOOCs) first offered in 2011 by Stanford University, and later by other elite American universities, openHPI provides learning videos on the Internet as well as extensive reading material. These offers are combined with learning-supportive interactive self-tests, homework and exams. The secret of this innovative form of tele-teaching/e-learning is the coupling of multimedia learning possibilities with social media interaction forums. This combination manifests itself in learning-supportive, virtual social learning communities. OpenHPI and MOOCs stand in contrast to “traditional” lecture portals, for example the HPI tele-TASK portal <http://www.tele-task.de>. Such portals “only” provide multimedia lectures and presentations that are primarily of benefit to autodidactic learners. On the other hand, MOOCs and openHPI offer didactically designed online courses in which learners and the teachers are connected in a virtual community. In this environment, processes of group dynamics support learning success to a great degree. This is a fact reflected in attendance numbers that exceed 200,000 participants - who are by no means exclusively college students. Already 20,000 attendees have successfully completed a course and earned a certificate.

### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

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