OERs and practice opportunities in interpreter training

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Online resources offer interpreting trainees an opportunity to practise with real-life challenges since internships are not facilitated due to the nature of the job.

Interpreting graduates need to be ready to work side by side with professionals and cannot start from a less demanding post and work their way up. The only opportunity they might have for on-the-job training is shadowing. Thus, their training needs to be as inclusive as possible and real-life challenges are an essential part of the curriculum. Online and open educational resources can boost this approach.

Interpreting requires a set of skills and knowledge of tools which are to be developed by students individually, so ICT tools can support them in their effort to optimize and eventually master those. However, although the use of online educational resources offers interpreter trainees the opportunity to practise their skills and learn about new ones, it is usually unidirectional and does not provide the necessary feedback on the various aspects of interpreting. The nature of MOOCs does not allow trainers to provide specialized and individualized feedback due to time limitations, so any online course aiming at interpreting trainees would have to address a limited number of participants.

Interpreting trainers can use ICT to add variety in the classroom, since interpreting classes sometimes have few students and diversity is essential for them to digest the theoretical background and empirical professional practices.

Another significant aspect of ICT tools is that of collaboration; there are various websites and YouTube channels that offer students the opportunity to practise and contribute with speeches. But it is not only trainees that can benefit from this. Trainers can also use online educational resources to enhance their teaching and keep track of changes and developments in their field.