

Why are open access educational resources on Urban Agriculture (UA) critical tools to promote Ecological Transition on a global scale?

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EXHIBITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM, Toulouse 6-9 June 2017 Sustainable Urban Agricultures (UA) : Vector for Ecological Transition !



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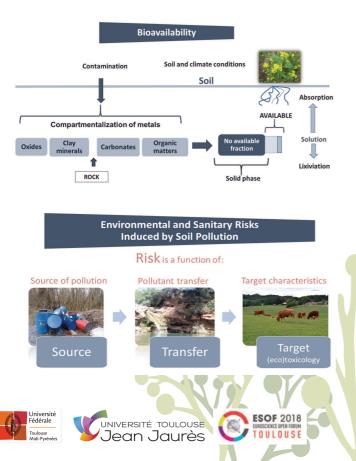
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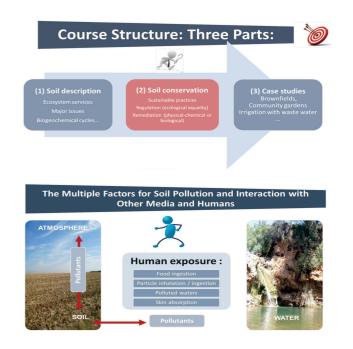
Introduction

High human density is observed in urban areas on a global scale. As a result, many towns are actually developing strategies to promote sustainable practices in terms of social inclusion, food, ecosystems and waste management or environmental justice (Dumat et al., 2016; Xiong et al., 2016). In a context characterized as anthropocene (Simonin, 2016) and even as capitalocene (Malm, 2016), public space is being mobilized to favor the "common good", such as soil quality.

Materials & Methods

In order to increase scientific ethic and social inclusion, certain academics are getting mobilized to promote a broad acculturation of the various players (students, citizens, elected representatives, professionals) on environmental justice, health, ecological equality and safety issues. This is reflected in the creation of widely accessible educational resources (often multidisciplinary and collaborative), such as the international scientific network "Réseau-Agriville", (http://reseau-agriville.com/) for example, or by developing MOOCs (Calame & Duque Gómez, 2016). The creation and development of the MOOC from Toulouse University, Masters' in industrial safety (www.safety-engineering.org) is studied.





Several good reasons can be listed for MOOC creation :

• When the end product is of high quality, it's good to share it widely: it becomes attractive and can promote the image of both the University and the teachers.

• MOOCs can be used in different complementary ways: they can be (i) put online as open access for self-training on fundamental socioscientific subjects such as urban agriculture (UA), (ii) used for face-toface classes in order to increase the time for exchanges between teachers and students, (iii) and also be used to obtain a diploma often issued with a face-to-face official examination and payment of registration fees.

• In the case of UA, the acculturation of large numbers of people is a guarantee of democracy.

• The economic crisis increases ecological inequalities for the various stakeholders in society. MOOCs contribute to the pooling of teaching resources and the spin-off is sustainable practices within the various institutions and civil society.

• Furthermore, a MOOC is scalable and "recyclable" as it can be translated, including into sign language, and cross borders via the use of scripts, subtitling and signs.

