

# MOOCs in Sweden – possibilities and obstacles

Harriet Wallberg, University Chancellor

Presentation at the conference

***MOOCs in Scandinavia***

Karolinska Institutet, June 11th 2015

# UKÄs assignment regarding MOOCs

- Mission from the Government received in March 2015  
(transferred from Lars Haikola's shortened commission)



# UKÄs assignment regarding MOOCs

- Mission from the Government received in March 2015 (transferred from Lars Haikola's shortened commission)
- UKÄ is assigned to...
  - Analyze possibilities and any obstacles connected to introducing MOOCs in Swedish higher education
  - Analyze MOOCs in Sweden in relation to the international context, e.g. financing and possible crediting of courses
  - Propose *if*, and in that case, *how* and *to what extent* MOOCs should be part of Swedish HE and the possible *consequences* of such a development



# Report from the Swedish Agency for Growth Policy Analysis★

- A study commissioned from the Government to study the importance of MOOCs, challenges and its effects on HE abroad
- A clear support for MOOCs on national level in the countries studied (US, UK, India and China)
- MOOCs is used to market the country and the universities, export education, attract students etc
- MOOCs is also seen as a way to counter high tuition fees and associated debt



# Possibilities and obstacles in the Swedish context

- HE in Sweden is free of charge, except for incoming students from outside EEA
- E-Learning is already established in Sweden
- Former initiative: Swedish Net-University and extra funding for online education 2002-2004

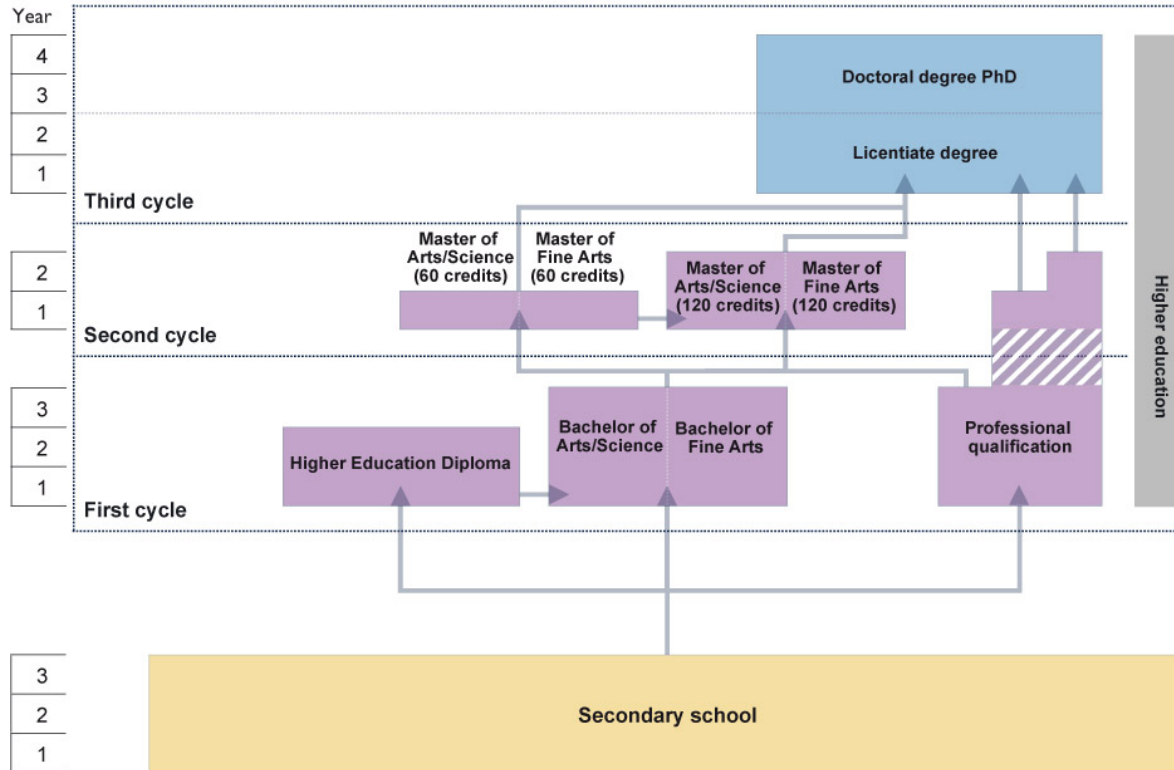


# Possibilities and obstacles in the Swedish context

- HE in Sweden is free of charge, except for incoming students from outside EEA
- E-Learning is already established in Sweden
- Former initiative: Swedish Net-University and extra funding for online education 2002-2004
- The level of completion of MOOCs is often very low (under 10 % is not unusual)



# National qualifications framework



# Problems of legal character



- MOOCs are not regarded as higher education according to Swedish legislation
- MOOCs are not compatible with the Swedish system of funding



# Problems of legal character



- MOOCs are not regarded as higher education according to Swedish legislation
- MOOCs are not compatible with the Swedish system of funding
- Because of the free access, students attending MOOCs are not formally accepted as students at a HE institution and are not "students" in the legal sense
- MOOC students do not have the same rights as other students and the courses do not result in a degree

# The aims of UKÄs assignment

- Definition of MOOCs in relation to other distance education
- Mapping of ongoing and planned MOOCs at Swedish HEIs
- To what extent do Swedish HEIs want to organize MOOCs? →
- Why? How? Target groups? Why not? Funding? Quality assurance?
- What about crediting of MOOCs?



# Report in the beginning of 2016

- HEIs will be invited to a seminar to discuss UKÄs proposals
- A report will be published in early 2016 discussing
  - If, and how, MOOCs can be integrated in the Swedish HE system
  - If possible: methods for collecting data about MOOCs



