



FREE  
TECHNOLOGY  
ACADEMY



Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme

# FTA – Towards sustainable production of OER

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# Introduction

- Strategy of the FTA: use Open Educational Resources because of the ethical imperative of facilitating universal access to knowledge and for consistency with an educational programme about Free Software
- How to generate revenue while investing considerable resources: authors, coordination, publish, update, distribute

# How do FS projects generate income?

- **fully Free Software**, revenue is generated with training, custom development, consultancy, certification and other **services**
- business models based on **proprietary add-ons**, known as **open core** (like SugarCRM) or on publishing software both under a proprietary license and a free license, known as **dual licensing** (like MySQL)
- **platform providers** which generate revenue by **aggregating applications** into one coherent platform and **certifying** its quality (like some GNU/Linux distributors such as RedHat or Novell)

# Analogue to FS in education: OER

- **Services:** tuition and guidance of learners in a course, assessment of learner's participation and assignments, certification of the acquired knowledge
- **Open core:** MIT's OpenCourseWare, some parts of the courses are published under free licenses, while enrolment is required to access the full course contents
- **Platform provider:** university (or network) offering a coherent educational programme, where the organisation invests in bringing a coherent programme with assured quality and certification and formal recognition of obtained results

# The Free Technology Academy

- The FTA aims to set up an **International Master Programme on Free Technologies**
- Freedom and Cooperation:
  - **Distance Learning through a Virtual Campus:** 100% free / libre / open source technology.
  - All course materials are published as **free educational materials (OER)**.
  - All courses are about concepts and vendor-independent, **free technologies** (FS, OS).
  - Creation of an **international partnership** for recognition of courses and sharing of the FTA programme and network.

# Who's behind it

## Consortium partners:

- **Free Knowledge Institute** (FKI) - Netherlands
- **Universitat Oberta de Catalunya** (UOC) - Spain
- **Open Universiteit** (OUNL) - Netherlands
- **University of Agder** (UIA) - Norway

## Associate Partners

- **Seed** - Switzerland
- **Gleducar** - Argentina
- **Foundation for P2P Alternatives**
- **Free Software Foundation**

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Supported by the **European Commission** (Lifelong Learning Programme)

# Distance Education Methodology

- Tutor from one of the universities guides, facilitates and evaluates
- Duration: 12-13 weeks (5 ECTS)
- Online and Asynchronous
- Activities, assignments, projects, debates, Guest Lectures
- 2010 pilots exceed expectations: 160 learners in 7 courses

# Study Programme 2010

V0.5		1 <sup>st</sup> Round Jan-april	2 <sup>nd</sup> Round April-July	3 <sup>rd</sup> Round Sept-Nov
Intro FS + OS	mod1	FKI		UIA
GNU/Linux	mod2	OUNL		
Network Technologies	mod3			OUNL
Web Apps	mod4		UIA	
Economical Aspects	mod5		FKI	
Legal Aspects	mod6			UOC
Software Dev	mod7		UOC	
Case Studies	mod8			t.b.d.

■ courses    ■ evaluation



# Study Programme 2011

<i>Tentative programme 2011</i>	Materials Ready	1 <sup>st</sup> Round	2 <sup>nd</sup> Round	3 <sup>rd</sup> Round
	2010	Jan-April	April-July	Sept-Dec
Concepts FS + OS				
GNU/Linux Basic				
GNU/Linux Advanced Admin				
Free Software Utilities				
Network Technologies				
Web App Development				
Software Development				
Implementation				
Economic Aspects				
Legal Aspects				
Software Architecture				
Assessment of FS projects				
FS in Public Administrations				
SW Engineering in FS				

# Course Materials

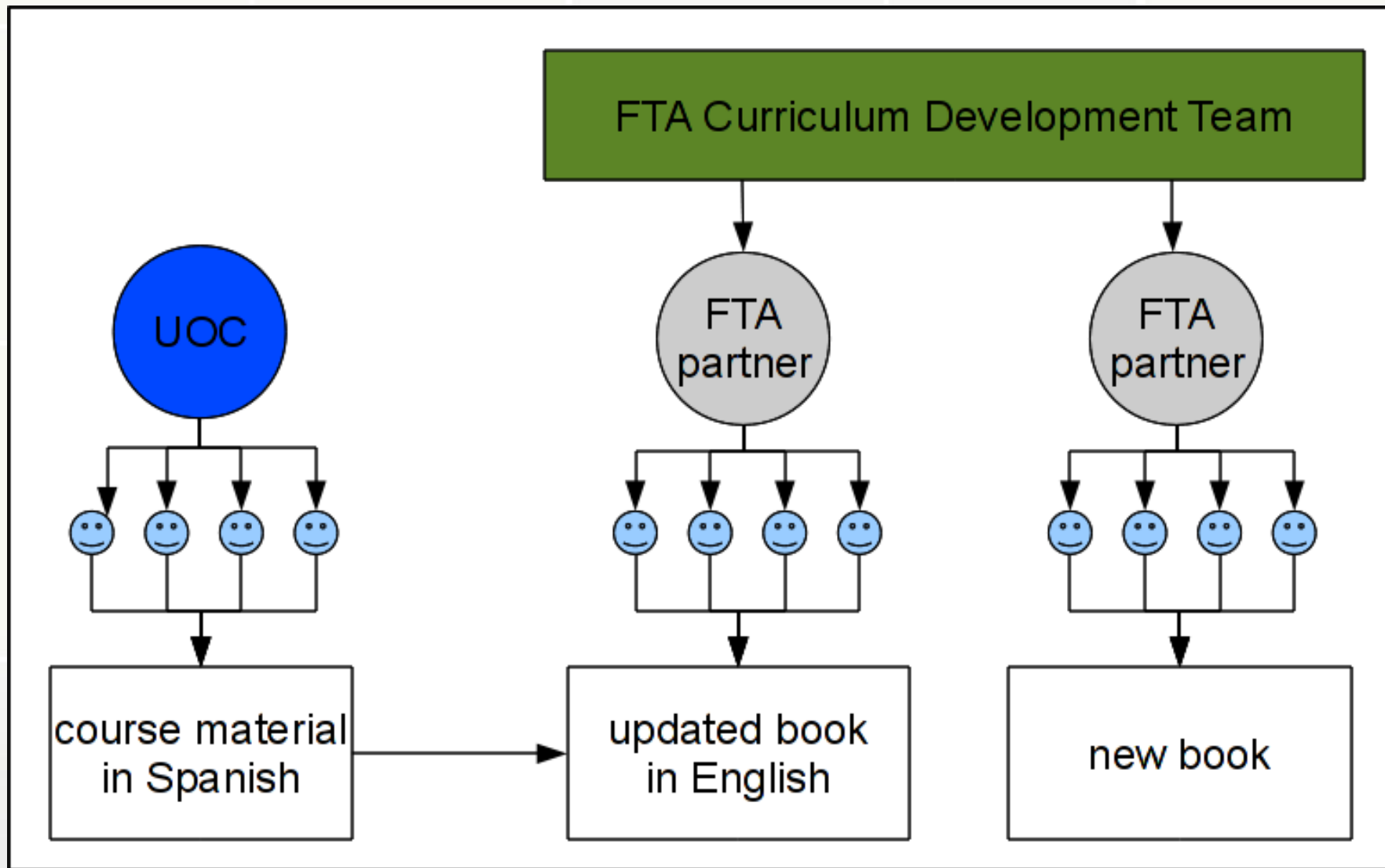
- All FTA materials are published openly and under free licenses:
  - **Module 1: The concepts of Free Software and Open Standards**
  - **Module 2: The GNU/Linux Operating System**
  - **Module 3: Open Networks**
  - **Module 4: Web applications development**
  - **Module 5: Economic Aspects and Business Models**
  - **Module 6: Legal Aspects of the Information Society**
  - **Module 7: Software development**
- **URL: <http://ftacademy.org/materials>**

# FTA course books - example

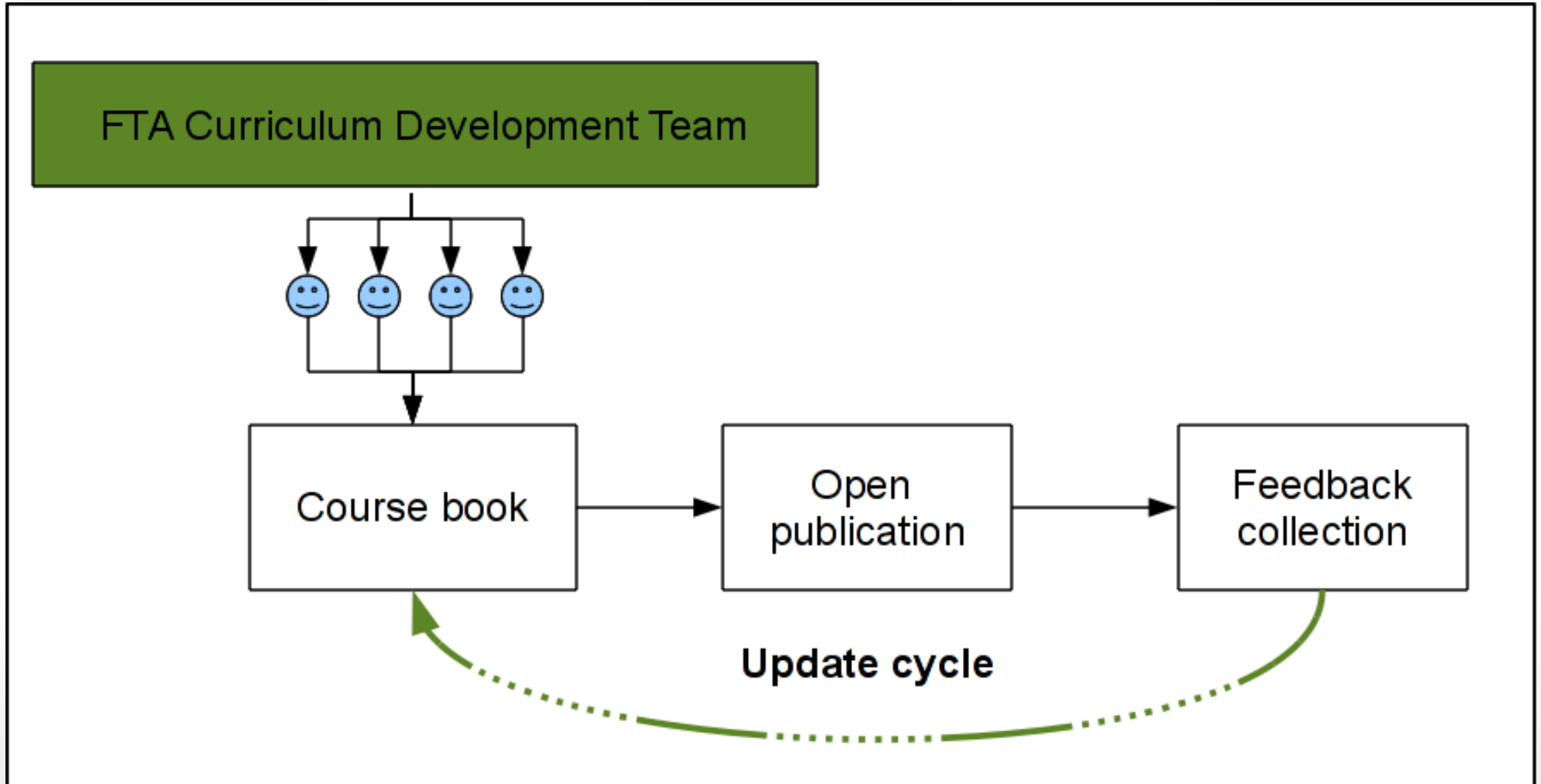
- **Title:** Introduction to Free Software
- **Authors:** Jesús M. González-Barahona, Joaquín Seoane Pascual, Gregorio Robles
- **Coordinators:** Jordi Mas Hernández, David Megías Jiménez
- **Licenses:** GNU Free Documentation License, Creative Commons Attribute ShareAlike License
- 291 Pages; 3.2Mb
- Download: <http://ftacademy.org/materials/fsm/1#1>



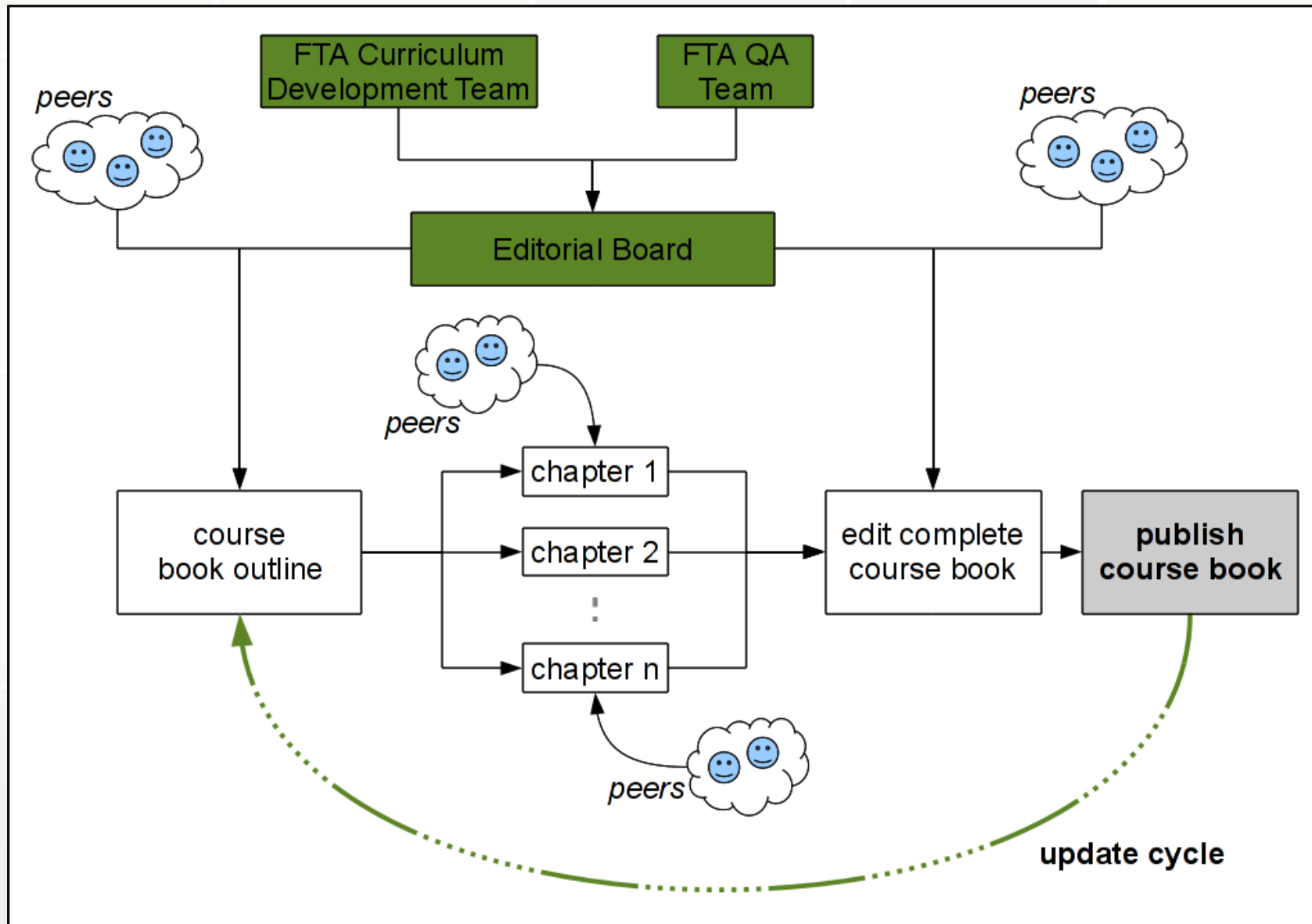
# Evolution FTA course book production



# Evolution FTA course book production (2)



# Evolution FTA course book production (3)



# Conclusions

- The FTA presents an economically sustainable model for distance education based on OER
- Production and maintenance of FTA learning materials is moving towards a more open and collaborative model
- These production models are not mutually exclusive and will probably coexist in the future.

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