



European Standards for Open Education and Open Learning Resources

Grant Agreement No. 2014-1-RO01-KA202-002985

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Report on the situation of open learning resources and open education- which target groups are to be addressed

O3-A6.1-P1, LBU Sibiu- RO



EU-StORe

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*Creating European standards for open education and open learning resources
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Open Educational Resources (OER) are materials for learning, teaching, research or other educational purposes that can be used, adapted and redistributed freely, without constraints - or with very few constraints - related to copyrights. Such materials can be courses, lesson plans, presentations, books, handbooks, questionnaires, activities for the classroom or for the laboratory, games, simulations, tests, audio or video resources and many more, available in digital format or on a physical support, to which the access is free.

Open resources are resources to which the access is free or for a moderate fee, from anywhere in the world and from any type of platform – from the computer, from the table or from the phone. However, OER are not only digital resources or those associated with e-Learning. OER can also be resources in physical, printed format.

The concept of Open Educational Resources was defined for the first time in 2002, within a UNESCO meeting in Paris. From this point of view, Open Educational Resources may comprise also specialized instruments such as the software needed for developing, using and

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delivering educational materials, including that needed for searching and organizing the contents, as well as the virtual communities for learning and teaching.

In order to be called Open Educational Resources, they must be free or have a reduced cost, to not have a commercial purpose, to be accessible from anywhere in the world and with any type of technology and, moreover, to have a free license. However, this is not universally accepted point of view and there exist several definitions for open educational resources. For example, in the [definition](#) adopted by [UNESCO](#) there is comprised also the part of free licensing, whereas [OER Commons](#) does not mention the type of license that the resources need to have.

We must specify that not every result of a search on the Internet is for sure an OER. To be sure of that it is necessary to check the license under which they are published. But we must take care, because it is not possible to find a complete list of OER initiatives from all over, because each day are increasing the number of freely available documents.

Some examples of OER, you can find at www.creativecommons.org/search/en , www.globe-info.org, www.ocwconsortium.org/courses/search, www.discovered.labs etc.

There are also a large number of OER databases. As example, Massachusetts Institute of Technology was the first higher education institution in the USA that experimented successfully with an educational platform that would make available open educational resources.

Other database is OpenLearn (The Open University): <http://www.open.edu/openlearn/or> (the home of free learning from The Open University), or TESSA <http://www.tessafrica.net/> - an international research and development initiative which brings together teachers and teacher educators from across sub-Saharan Africa.

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OER in Romania

Education Ministry from Romania has elaborated from 2007 a set of recommendations for policies supporting the Open Source (OS), Open Educational Resources (OER) and Open Educational Practices (OEP (see <http://poerup.referata.com/wiki/Romania>):

- to encourage the use of open source software in schools and in educational institutions for operating systems, applications, for virtual learning environments and content management systems, for open educational content development;

- the training programmes for teachers and administrators to contain open source solutions pre-sentations and applications, not only proprietary solutions;

- to teach pupils and students skills, not specific applications; the ICT and Technological Education manuals to present both proprietary and OS solutions;

- to create a repository with the educational projects in which Romanian schools and educational organizations have participated, such as Leonardo, Socrates, eContent programmes: trained human resources, gained experience and skills, produced materials could be used, projects could be continued or new ones could be started;

- to develop an partnership with publishers, broadcasters, libraries, cultural institutions to provide access to their own resources;

- to implement an online system for collaborative production of open educational resources by teachers and students, based on Web2.0 collaborative technologies. OER can make a valuable contribution to a diversified supply of learning resources, supporting methodological diversity, and promoting the individualization of the learning process;

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- the teachers training programmes should contain topics related to OER, new licenses and tools to create educational materials in a collaborative manner;

- to encourage a competitive market for educational resources production, guarantee transparency of supply and equal opportunities to market actors;

- to define a set of quality criteria.

There are some Courses / Trainings / Programs for OE , just few examples

(<http://poerup.referata.com/wiki/Romania>):

1. OER Awareness Activities for Librarians and Academics in Romania", funded by CC Affiliate Project Grants ([http://wiki.creativecommons.org/Affiliate Project Grants](http://wiki.creativecommons.org/Affiliate_Project_Grants), <http://creativecommons.org/weblog/entry/43115>), implemented in 2013-2014 by ApTI Association for Technology and Internet, Soros Foundation Romania and National Association of Libraries and Librarians in Romania
2. Moodle Romania <http://www.moodle.ro/course> which offers courses for teacher training in using new technologies, and hosts/supports courses for schools and universities.
3. Didatec <http://elearning.upt.ro/proiecte/ro/didatec/> which is focused on integrating interactive teaching and learning techniques and IT&C among the professors' competences. It is offering a certified blended-learning training in new educational technologies for teachers and trainers; OER, CC licenses, open technologies are core topics (http://elearning.upt.ro/assets/upload/content/Didatec_Prezentare_Program_formare_upt.pdf). More than 1000 teachers and professors was involved in this project.
4. ViCaDiS <http://vicadis.net>: (Virtual Campus for Digital Students) supports the development of an innovative virtual campus for digital students. The platform is still open and offers courses around Europe, some resources being an free licenses.
5. iTeach <http://iteach.ro> –the aim is to create an advanced virtual environment dedicated to the professional development of teaching staff, that integrates web 2.0 instruments and facilities specific for virtual communities, for informing and training, for facilitating the exchange of experience, for developing long-distance teaching projects, for, socio-professio-

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nal cooperation, for the natural acquaintance with the new technologies. offers online courses on new technologies and pedagogies (<http://iteach.ro/pagina/21495>).

6. The Institute for Education Sciences - Centre for Online Learning has initiated a series of online courses, hosted on the Moodle platform. The courses are aimed at students, teaching staff, school principals, experts, school counselors as well as at all those interested in specific educational aspects. Among the creators of course modules, of the methodology and online platform there are professors or researchers from the Institute for Education Sciences, authors of handbooks, evaluators but also other experts from this area <http://training.ise.ro>.

7. "Social Media for Higher Education" was one of the courses developed and run in the project "Improving University Management", having as goal to promote updated knowledge, modern techniques and actual management instruments for the higher education institutions across Romania <http://www.management-universitar.ro/606/section.aspx/362>. OER and OEP were topics of the course.

8. Partnerships and participations of Romanian schools in eTwinning projects related to OER and OEP (Romania became a partner in the eTwinning programme, with ISE - Institute of Educational Sciences as the national coordinator in October 2007; since 2012, 7000 schools and 9000 teachers took part in eTwinning projects).

9. Online academy (<http://www.academiaonline.ro/>) offers free courses for business, personal development, foreign languages, IT&C, education. Most courses are free, but there

also exists the possibility to take part, on the same platform, in several fee-based courses that are approved by higher authorities.

As we can see, Romania is currently active in this movement especially through trainings and courses for the pre-university and university education. There are however various

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national events related to open resources and there are some communities around the topics of free software, open access, open data, free licences.

Conclusion

Considering the above, the highest openness for OER have the people with higher education which are engaged in continuing education programs and those who want to change their qualification, with one required by the labor market. Therefore we believe the target group which we want to address must present some requirements, as following:

- to have as an education level minimum the high schools;
- to have good IT knowledge;
- to be interested (motivated) in continuing education;
- to have availability for Network Connection;
- to be persistent
- to be accustomed with learning activities.

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