



Enhancing Open Education support In European Academic Libraries

EduCoop Open Education Cooperative Conference

SPARC Europe
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A great chance to enhance Open Education!

Open Educational Resources (OER)

[UNESCO Recommendation on OER](#)



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Unesco OER Recommendation

1. Build **capacity** of stakeholders to access, use, adapt, create, share OER
2. Develop supportive **policy**
3. Support/enable **inclusive and equitable quality OER**
4. Nurture creation of **sustainability models** for OER
5. Facilitate **international collaboration**

Hewlett project main objectives

- **Timeline: Nov 2020 - Summer 2023**
- to **advance Open Education** in academic libraries whilst implementing the UNESCO OER Recommendation
- academic libraries as **ambassadors** and **facilitators** of Open Education to promote access to research and educational materials for all
- European Network of Open Education Librarians (**ENOEL**) is our work ground

Specific objectives (across 2.5 years) (implementing UNESCO OER Recommendation)

1. Increase knowledge of OE and OER amongst European librarians in Higher Education from over 15 European countries through an **annual survey, needs assessment** and **network activities**.
(OER Rec 1 – 3 – 5)



2. Increase the visibility of the benefits and opportunities of Open Education in European libraries in HE through **info campaigns, blog posts, events** and **social media** in over 15 European countries.
(OER Rec 1 -2 -5)

Specific objectives across 2.5 years (implementing UNESCO OER Recommendation)

3. Support and grow European, national and organizational OE policymaking in Europe by sharing and analysing good practice with policymakers. (OER Rec 1 - 2)



4. Help sustain OE infrastructure in Europe.
(OER Rec 4)

Intended Outcomes

- The European academic library community is better informed of **progress made in OE in Higher Ed institutions** in Europe and of the **UNESCO OER Recommendation** and of progress towards achieving its goals
- The European Network of Open Education Librarians has engaged **members from between 15-20 European countries**
- **More libraries** of Higher Ed institutions in Europe **are engaged in Open Education** or have expanded their activities
- **OE policy measures** institutionally, nationally and internationally **have grown across Europe**
- More are aware of and are taking action to **secure an open Open Education infrastructure**

Activities

- **Community engagement** - liaise with libraries and open education organisations to form partnerships for capacity-building in Europe; gather needs and challenges; share and grow good practices
- **Research** - inform capacity-building in the European library community - monitor the progress in achieving certain UNESCO OER Recommendation goals in academic libraries
- **Advocacy and communication** - create core messaging promoting OE's benefits and opportunities to share the OER Recommendation message and how to implement it **TARGET**: international, national and institutional policymakers and OER advocates at HE organisations
- **Developing supportive policy** - developing OE and OER policy on an international European level; support the development of new policies and programs; (try to) introduce a dedicated financial instrument for OE at the European Commission
- **Infrastructure sustainability**

Community engagement - tasks

- define a **strategy for the network** based on extensive work already done
- analyse **2020 Survey results**
- organize **2-monthly virtual meetings** with libraries from Europe (UN Europe)
- organize **1 satellite event** to another OE event (with OEGlobal 21 or OER 22)

Research - tasks

- distribute the **annual landscape survey** of the OE support offering in High Ed libraries
- perform **desk research**
- attend **OE conferences**
- develop and maintain contacts with **key colleagues** in the field from SPARC (US), Creative Commons, Open Education Global, and other organisations and projects funded by the Hewlett Foundation

Advocacy and Communication - tasks

- Disseminate **key messages** and **advocacy outputs** in 5 European languages: **informational - key results** from project-related **research** and **surveys**; - **inspirational - good practices** and **OE champions**
- prepare **presentations** at OA and OE events
- update SPARC Europe **web page** on this project
- promote **social campaigns**
- enlarge the **network**
- reach out to allied **partners**, and disseminate through their active **newsletters, blogs, websites** and **social media channels**
- add policy and practice examples to the **OER World Map**

Supportive Policy - tasks

- gather **evidence on policymaking amongst European universities** through the SPARC Europe academic library OE annual survey
- encourage the development of **national and local OE policies**
- bring the **UNESCO OER Recommendation** to Europe's policymakers
- share useful **policy tools** for a) new policymaking or b) to further strengthen existing policies

Infrastructure Sustainability - tasks

- explore how to best sustain a **shared infrastructure** through community funding
- advocate for decreasing the **threats** of the possible **overexploitation of OER** by commercial companies
- reach out to institutions to **become members of SPARC Europe** to sustain the program – a funding model that has been working for Open Scholarship for 15 years from 2023.
- development of an **OE funding instrument/work program** at the European Commission for 2023

How are libraries already supporting OE in EU?

- To gain insights into Open Education practices within academic libraries in Europe
- To ultimately strengthen Open Education (OE) and increase Open Education Resources (OER) in higher education institutions and their libraries across Europe

Library leadership (2020 Survey)

- 50% take the lead in OE or OER in their institutions
- 7 of 9 libraries involved in conceiving OE policy
 - taking lead in advancing OER
 - engage in more activities: 5.3 activities vs 3.3
- 40 of 101 lead from teaching and learning, 10 scholarly communications section

10 recommendations

- *Fund:*
 1. Explore opportunities for **seed-funding projects** to kick-start OE efforts
 2. Earmark some of your **library budget** for OE
 3. Consider establishing a **grant programme** to support the creation of OER
- *Collaborate:*
 4. Invest more in **understanding the interplay** between **professionals & stakeholders** locally and externally, e.g. **develop a stakeholder management plan**

10 recommendations

- *Lead:*
 5. If you haven't already, **consider taking a leadership role** to help drive OE at your institution/library;
many of your peers already are doing so
 6. Step up **advocacy efforts** with teaching staff and management;
identify and **equip** your own internal **champions**
 7. Help **initiate or develop an OE policy** (locally or nationally); there is still a shortage of such policies. Build on the policies of peers

10 recommendations

- *Create*
 8. Engage in the **co-creation of Open Education Resources**; help grow what is available.
 9. **Identify the skills** you need for OE/OER, and **upskill** by **partnering** more internally / externally
- *Monitor & Grow:*
 10. Locate **where and what OERs are being created** within your institution; optimise accessibility and monitor growth of such resources over time.

What do you
need?
How do you want
to contribute?

Thanks!

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