Open Education in Europe:
Overview, integration with Open Science and the Library role.

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OPEN EDUCATION IN EUROPE

Since Open Education (OE) was identified as a potential solution to some of the challenges in the EU educational systems, there has been a growing interest:

European Commission:

- European (Open Edu) framework for OE: *Opening up Education (2013)*
- European Policy Cooperation in Education & Training (ET2020)

OE community:

not just a bureaucratic issue, but a topic of discussion from all over the world: OE Global Conference 2018, 2nd World OER Congress (2017) and future ones.
OPEN EDUCATION IN EUROPE

10 Core dimensions of OE for Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), in order to open up the education practices:

- **Basic** (6): access, contents, pedagogy, recognition, collaboration and research → most common practices about ‘what’ opens (or can be opened)

- **Transversal** (4): strategy, technology, quality and leadership → The spine needed to get the first ones: the way to open them

Source: OpenEdu Dimensions (Inamorato et al, 2016)
OE Policies in the 28 EU states:

1. Policies oriented to the opening of education **through the promotion of OER and OEP**;
2. Policies **related to ICT for learning** with some component of open education;
3. **Integral strategic educational policies** with some component of open education;
4. Policies designed as **national open government plans** with some component of open education.

Source: Open Education Policies Inamorato Dos Santos; Punie; Scheller, 2017
OPEN EDUCATION POLICIES

Examples of OE Policies within each of the 4 categories:

1. **Promotion of OER and OEP**: the initiatives of the French Ministry of Higher Education, *Fun MOOC* (collaborative platform of online courses) and *Opening Up Slovenia* (research environment in OE by a group of partner institutions: industry, research, education, etc.)

2. **ICT for learning**: the Portuguese National Policy *Conta-nos uma historia*: application of ICT in learning, encouraging the use of media in schools through an open competition of stories published by students.

3. **Integral strategic educational policies**: in the Flanders region in Belgium, OE policies are not a political objective but are part of educational policies, as a tool that contributes to innovation in HE.

4. **National open government plans**: the third Greek national plan *Greece National Action Plan (2016-2018)* integrates, from a macro-national level, the open dimensions: educational materials, collaboration, research, certification, data and open source.
OPEN EDUCATION POLICIES

Examples of OE Institutional policies:

- **2015** - Glasgow Caledonian University OER Institutional Policy
  → 1\textsuperscript{st} HEI in the UK and also Scotland

- **2016** - Open Educational Resources Policy of University of Edinburgh.
  → Both report the institutional positioning of the OER and guidelines for their use in learning and teaching.

- **2017** - Open Education Policy of the International University of La Rioja (UNIR)
  → 1\textsuperscript{st} Spanish University with a specific Open Education Policy

* 2006 - Open University of Catalonia (UOC) → an OE initial initiative: OA institutional policy that provided licensed open learning materials to its institutional repository.
OPEN EDUCATION AND OPEN SCIENCE

Open Science (OCS) is a new way to make science

“a new approach to the scientific process based on cooperative work and new ways of disseminating knowledge, improving accessibility to and re-usability of research outputs by using digital technologies and new collaborative tools”. (Comissió Europea, 2018)

Open Education (OE) is a new way of teaching and learning

→ 1. both movements have a "kinship" or family relationship and also agree on important aspects as transparency, collaboration and social impact.
OPEN EDUCATION AND OPEN SCIENCE

2. OE is one of the elements of OSC, included in the great beehive of OCS and, generally, associated with OER

Source: Open Science facets as a beehive (Foster, 2018)
OPEN EDUCATION AND OPEN SCIENCE

OE doesn’t appear in most* of current OSC Policies and strategies:

- Not included in the priority ambitions of OSC according to the OSPP (Open Science Policy Platform), since they are: incentives, indicators and research metrics, academic communication, European Open Science Cloud, FAIR data, research integrity and competences and citizen science

- Not one of the acceleration areas of the Open Science Monitor. It has planned an initial acceleration of OSC based on 3 major areas:
  
  open access to publications, research data and assessment systems.

* There are some exceptions (see next slide)
OPEN EDUCATION AND OPEN SCIENCE

However, although the dominant scenario is concentrated in the process and results of the research, a certain component of open education is also evident:

- **Some OSC Plans** incorporate some specific component of OE. P.e: [Action Plan on Open Science for Tilburg University Strategy 2018-2020](#).

- **OSC includes educational dimensions** from 2 approaches:
  - **Open Skills** that researchers need to achieve to become aware and facilitate OSC
  - **Scientific education related to RRI** (Responsible Research and Innovation), which involves the exchange of results and scientific practices with the general public and has an impact on education and the learning of science.
In short, OSC is:

- a much **broader concept than the acceleration areas marked in its initial phase**.

- a **multidimensional phenomenon** that has yet to continue to develop.

Therefore, **open education** and other non-explicit areas will be **discussed later in a more mature later stage**.
LIBRARY ROLE IN OPEN EDUCATION

Some of the main influences of the libraries in the OE context have been:

- Support in the creation of materials with CC Licenses
- Librarian-teaching collaboration in the identification of open content to do serve in the curricula
- Participation in the collective production of OER and MOOCs
LIBRARY ROLE IN OPEN EDUCATION

Some of the **fist actions of the libraries** in favor of the OER and OE have been:

- oriented to their preservation and open diffusion by **OCW platforms and institutional repositories**
- in charge of encouraging the deposit and **creation of OER specific collections**.
- as collaboration in the **creation and use of open textbooks**.
LIBRARY ROLE IN OPEN EDUCATION

Beyond the OERs and in relation to open science:

- the association of European Libraries of Research LIBER has committed itself to align its activities with those of the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC), the main actor in the process of implementing open science in Europe.

- In this sense, the LIBER Open Science Roadmap 2018-2020, collects the specific actions that libraries can carry out to lead the OSC
LIBRARY ROLE IN OPEN EDUCATION

In addition to support in the adoption and creation of OER, training in open competences and practices are others contributions of libraries to the integration of open education in open science.

Libraries play a key role and they have a potential opportunity to bring some OE fruits
REFERENCES


