Proposal - Open Education Global Conference

European Network for Catalysing Open Resources in Education, ENCORE+

Session Type: Webinar Presentation

Building a European OER Ecosystem
- State of Play across Tech, Policy, Quality, Business & Innovation

Although there have been great developments in OER technologies, many innovative OER-related projects and a growing stakeholder acceptance towards OER, Europe will only make leapfrog advances through a deep integration of OER into a comprehensive multi-stakeholder and sustainable OER ecosystem. In line with the "Promoting and reinforcing international cooperation" action area of the Recommendation on Open Educational Resources (OER) (UNESCO, 2019), the 3-year intitiave European Network for Catalysing Open Resources in Education (ENCORE+) facilitates the creation of a European Ecosystem for OER through promoting and stimulating cross-border collaboration through joint research and bringing together as well as growing the European OER community through collaboration.

The initiative aims to create four engaging European network communities – open to anyone interested – actively involving stakeholders in and outside of Europe through four streams of engagement: OER Technology, Policies & Practice, Quality and Innovation & Business Models. The Community Circles will jointly consolidate a new, integrated vision and understanding of how OER and Open Education can foster innovation in higher education and business across Europe.

The presentation will provide findings from joint research - including desk research, qualitative expert interviews as well as a pan-European survey which was implemented between April and June 2021 as part of the ENCORE+ project - along with insights from the first round of ENCORE+ circle events. Webinar participants will gain insights into the current state of play of OER through a multi-stakeholder perspective from higher education and business across Europe and how to further contribute to shaping Europe's next OER Ecosystem. The presentation is an invitation to jointly reflect, discuss and debate the findings and lessons learnt as part of the session and beyond through OEGlobal Connect.

Speakers:

Prof. Dr. Ulf-Daniel Ehlers, Professor for Educational Management and Lifelong Learning, Baden-Wuerttemberg Cooperative State University Karlsruhe, Germany
Tina Marie Monelyon, Researcher, Chair of Education Management and Lifelong Learning, Baden-Wuerttemberg Cooperative State University Karlsruhe, Germany

Key Words:

OER, Community Initiatives, Regional Cooperation, International Collaboration, OER Recommendation, European OER Ecosystem, Open Education Policies and Practices, Community Building

Further information on ENCORE+:

In summary the project and European OER Ecosystem for OER will:

1. *Engage* business actors, including SMEs, in the OER ecosystem by demonstrating the innovation potential of open content for Human Resources development in companies
2. *Nurture* the uptake of OER in Europe by stimulating the integration of organisational strategies for OER in business and academia, encouraging both sectors to co-learn from successful implementation practice
3. *Contribute* to the development of a sustained and well-mapped European OER innovation area by connecting and fostering knowledge exchange across HE and business
4. *Organise and open* cultures and communities to facilitate stakeholder collaboration and catalyse the spread of innovative practices built on OER across the European area
5. *Realise* a new vision for technological infrastructure which develops collaboration and connection among OER repositories into a European OER Ecosystem
6. *Establish* open, distributed and highly trusted community-based quality review strategies for the future European OER Ecosystem and involve businesses and higher education institutions in dialogues on quality and innovation through OER

At the European level, the anticipated effect is a significant push for a European area for OER-based innovation as an integrated part of the European Education Area. This will contribute to making a reality the vision expressed several times by the European Commission on the need to use OER as a driver for both inclusion and innovation. A further important impact will be in terms of improved university-business cooperation.

At an international level, ENCORE+ will be a key mechanism for the implementation of the 2019 UNESCO OER Recommendation. We expect to bring about closer collaboration among quality OER repositories beyond Europe, mainly thanks to the international reach of the project coordinator; the prestige of the academics; and the presence of several UNESCO and ICDE Chairs among the project partners who will connect the work of ENCORE+ with international developments in OER.

For more information please visit: https://encoreproject.eu/

Contact

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