Open Education in Slovenia
State of the Art and Perspectives

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Education in Slovenia

- Education is mainly a public service
- From pre-school to HE in numbers (2016/2017):
  - Over 1,200 kindergartens (95% public)
  - 772 basic schools and branches (less than 1% are private)
  - 111 public upper secondary schools and 6 private (> 60% VET)
  - 28 public and 20 private higher vocational colleges (tertiary education)
  - three public and two private universities, one independent public higher education institution and 46 private higher education institutions
- Open educational pathways - permeability
Performace & results

- Pre-school education participation 92% (5 year olds)
- Basic education is compulsory (drop-out rates below 5%)
- Between 98%-99% in secondary education
- 43,3% (30-34 year olds) hold a tertiary education degree/qualification
- Generations of approx 20.000 children/year
- 4,8% GDP for education
- Above average in all main PISA (OECD) indicators- among 15 best education systems in the world
OE development in Slovenia

- An early start - first activities 2 years after independence

- A 3-phase process:
  1) Strategic phase - develop and adopt strategic measures and action plans
  2) Investment phase - invest into the three pillars of open education
  3) Alignment and mainstreaming phase - review, (re)align and lead international trends and standards in open education
A holistic approach

- The so-called holistic approach:
  - Involve all stakeholders
  - Provide a framework, provide support, provide incentives but do not overburden („not yet another skill“)
  - Cultivate the ethos of openness & create critical mass to move things forward
  - A two-way process: bottom-up is fundamental, top-down only when necessary
  - A „conservative“ approach – why?
OE in the classroom

- Making changes to instruction, assessments, even the physical make-up of classrooms
- Education is one of the last fields to make extensive change, holding on to traditional methods and practices.
- Formal and informal education institutions are exploring the benefits of OER. Open education is being put in strategic development plans and institutions have started to transform their role from traditional educators to open educational spaces
Examples of OE in the classroom

- Kindergarten Trnovo - *open curriculum* developed - NOT ICT!!!
- Basic school Savsko naselje - one of the leaders in OER (developing a demonstration centre for content created)
- Gimnazija (upper secondary school) France Prešern Kranj - adopting OE in order to serve student athletes
Recent milestones

- 2014 OpeningUp Slovenia initiative
- 2015 National strategy of open access to scientific publications and research data in Slovenia 2015–2020
- 2016 Strategic guidelines for further implementation of ICT in the Slovenian education until 2020
- 2017 the 2nd OER UNESCO World Congress - Ljubljana Action Plan
- Drafting the UNESCO Recommendation on OER
What’s next?

- Today, you cannot succeed in deploying OE on your own
- Foster equality among schools in terms of use and development of OE
- New MFF at EU level
- OE as a global movement, guidance, policy orientation
- Work bilaterally (global partner countries), regionally (South East Europe) and multilaterally (UNESCO, Presidency of the EU Council)
- Strong leadership (symbolic power)
Thank you for your attention!