



# ***POERUP:*** ***Policies for OER Uptake***

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## *POERUP Partners*

1. Sero (coordinator)
2. University of Leicester
3. Open University of the Netherlands
4. University of Lorraine
5. SCIENTER
6. EDEN
7. Athabasca University (Canada)



Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme

**EACEA**

Education, Audiovisual & Culture  
Executive Agency



## ***Context and rationale***

- Over ten years of the OER movement
- Hundreds of OER repositories worldwide
- **Lack of uptake** by teachers and learners
- Shift from *development* to *community building* and articulation of OER practice



## ***Focus of POERUP***

- Stimulating the uptake of OER through policy
- Building on previous initiatives (such as OPAL, Olnet and SCORE)
- Through country reports (target 24, now 30)
- And case studies, evaluating successful OER communities
- Linked to ODS, IIEP, IPTS and non-EU initiatives





## ***POERUP timescales revised***

- **Bid submitted March 2011**
- **Preparatory and related studies: 2011**
- **Project started: November 2011**
- **Project funded period ends: June 2014**
- **Final reports due: end August 2014**





## ***This presentation***

- Summarises our conclusions, with examples
- Along with some thoughts about the process and future projects
- Within the context of the European Commission's *Opening Up Education* policy recommendations



## ***POERUP Achievements***

- 
- Inventory of more than **400** OER initiatives worldwide (120 **notable**)

- 
- **30** country reports – 3 more coming

- 
- **7** case studies including Wikiwijs, ALISON (Ireland), OER U (global) and FutureLearn (UK mostly)

- 
- **3** EU-level policy documents for universities, VET and schools

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- In progress: **8** policy documents for UK (x3), Ireland, France, Netherlands, Poland – and Canada





## ***Country reports***

***Then we shall look at policy interventions  
(no time to discuss initiatives  
or case studies in this talk)***







## *Country reports (done by POERUP)*

- 30 in all, at least one from each continent
- **Europe: 15 out of 28 EU states; and Norway**
- Americas: US, Canada, Mexico, Argentina
- Asia: Gulf States, Thailand
- Africa: South Africa
- Australia and New Zealand





## ***Country reports – conclusions***

- Many countries are doing very little OER **stricto sensu**
- Even fewer have policies about or even directly relevant to OER
- Yet across the world there are perhaps 500 OER initiatives currently active – or *recently active*





## *Country reports – issues*

- Relied on other projects that were claiming to be doing OER reports, tried to avoid overlap
- Worked out well with **OER Asia**
- Worked out less well with other projects
- Did not take account of countries entering the OER scene late or reports going out of date





## *Country reports – solutions*

- Currently updating all **our** country reports
- Also reporting on **Ireland**, **Germany**, and **Brazil**
- Also doing rapid continental “helicopter” scans across Africa, Hispanic America and Asia
  - Focussing just on initiatives and policies not context
  - And there will be a **map**, plus data supplied to collaborators in “common format” – specific collaboration with eMundus





## ***Policy interventions***

To foster OER and activities that in  
turn will foster OER





*All our policy work since autumn 2013 has taken account of the EU initiative:*

Opening up Education

[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release IP-13-859 en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-13-859_en.htm)





# ***Innovation***

The key  
but only at scale



## ***Innovation – innovative institutions***

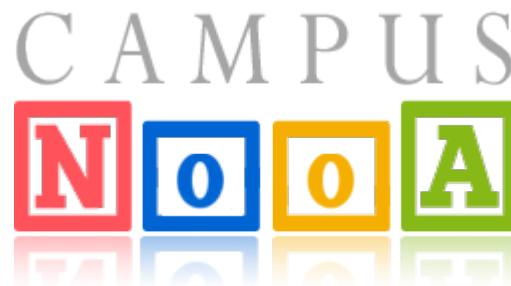
- Since the era of building open universities there has been little visible activity in **creating** innovative institutions







## *New-build institutions opening up education*



Open College of the Arts



HIBERNIA  
COLLEGE  
DUBLIN

Sofia Distansundervisning



"Vi finns där du är"



Learning at  
Your Fingertips



Lifelong Learning Programme



## ***Innovation – recommendation***

- The European Commission should set up a **competitive innovation fund** to set up one **new** “European” university each year for the next 5 years with a commitment to “low-system-cost” online education around a core of open content.
  - OUE: Support innovative teaching and learning environments, including through the use of structural and investment funds (ESIFs)
  - OUE: Establish a European Hub of Digitally Innovative Education institutions... complemented by a specific European Award of Digital Excellence





# *Accreditation and quality*

“Outside the rules”  
or  
“Within the (new) rules”



## ***Accreditation of prior learning***

- The Commission should recommend to universities that they should to improve and proceduralise their activity on APL (Accreditation of Prior Learning) including the ability to **accredit knowledge and competences developed through online study and informal learning**, including but not restricted to OER and MOOCs
- Large Member States should set up an Open Accreditor if their HE sector is diverse with small institutions
  - OUE: Ensure that transparency and recognition instruments for formal education are adapted to new forms of learning including validation of skills acquired online





*Thank you for listening*

*Paul Bacsich*

For the POERUP team

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