Unpacking the Open Educational Resources Recommendations: A tool to promote their application

Call for proposals

Not least by the adoption of UNESCO's Recommendation on Open Educational Resources (OER)[1], the democratization of knowledge production and sharing in higher education and beyond has received increasing attention by policy makers, education stakeholders such as education unions, as well as private actors. OERs refer to "learning, teaching and research materials in any format and medium that reside in the public domain or are under copyright that have been released under an open license, that permit no-cost access, re-use, re-purpose, adaptation and redistribution by others"[2]. The COVID-19 pandemic as well as the climate emergency and other societal challenges have made it clear that access to knowledge is key to finding solutions to the problems of today. While the UNESCO Recommendations provide general guidelines for the definition and scope of Open Educational Resources, the actual implementation leaves room for interpretation and could be challenging on several fronts such as the lack of awareness or concerns about the quality of the available resources. Therefore, several concerns and questions prevent the Recommendations' use and application. This research project aims to support EI member organisations to unpack the OER Recommendations and provide them with guidance on how they can use them in their work at the national and institutional level. The tool will analyze challenges and opportunities arising from the implementation of the Recommendation, specifically in relation to academic work, and identify current obstacles as well as ways unions can engage in and contribute to the debates around OER and the implementation of the Recommendation. We aim to present and use this tool during a high panel discussion on democratization of knowledge during the biennial International Further and Higher Education and Research Conference organized by Education International (Mexico, 24-26 October 2023).

Objective(s) of the research

Develop a toolkit that can support member organisations in promoting the implementation of Open Educational Resources in their own contexts.

Suggested methodology

The study will be conducted via a desk-based review and interviews with key informants from UNESCO and representatives from member organisations that are familiar with the promotion and use of OERs. EI can facilitate the coordination for the interviews.

Outcomes of the research

- A toolkit of 15-20 pages maximum. The language and content of the toolkit should be accessible to a non-specialist audience. It should include an introduction to the main concepts and benefits of OERs, a brief explanation of the provisions of the recommendation, together with an analysis of related obstacles/challenges/opportunities, and suggested actions that organisations can take to further the implementation of the recommendation in their own contexts, with a view to advancing the rights and conditions of higher education and research personnel.

---

[1] The 2019 UNESCO Recommendation on Open Educational Resources (OER): supporting universal access to information through quality open learning materials - UNESCO Digital Library

[2] Recommendation on Open Educational Resources (OER) | UNESCO

- A Power Point presentation with a synthesis of the key parts of the toolkit's content.

Suggested timeline

23 June 2023	Deadline for applications
July 2023	Start of work and elaborate a detailed work plan.
September 2023	Elaborate and finalize the final version of the toolkit.

Proposed budget

The total budget available for this research is a maximum of 10,000.00 EUR

Education International will bear the costs related to copyediting, layout and the launch of the paper.

Schedule of Payments

40% on receipt of detailed work plan (July 2023)
60% on receipt of the final toolkit (September 2023)

Terms of the Contract

The contract should run for up to three months. The contractor will liaise with EI on the progress of the brief. The research will remain confidential to EI and the contractor until the publication of the research.

Application

Send curriculum vitae with description of relevant experience to Gina Pancorbo (gina.pancorbo@ei-ie.org) **before June 23**.