



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

2012 World Open Educational Resources Congress

Wednesday 20 – Friday 22 June, 2012

Room XII, UNESCO HQ, Paris, France

Introduction

Open educational resources (OER) are any type of educational materials in the public domain, or released with an open license, that allows users to legally and freely use, copy, adapt, and re-share. OERs present a strategic opportunity to improve the quality of education as well as facilitate policy dialogue, knowledge sharing and capacity building.

The global challenge

Despite the great success of OER initiatives such as the OpenCourseware (OCW) Consortium, African Virtual University OER Portal, Teacher Education in Sub-Saharan Africa (TESSA), Khan Academy, and countless examples at secondary school level, OERs are not mainstreamed in education planning. Moreover awareness of the costs and benefits of OER is still very limited.

Objectives of the Congress

Through the generous support of the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and in full partnership with the Commonwealth of Learning (COL), UNESCO proposes to organize a World OER Congress to:

1. Showcase the world's best practices in OER policies, initiatives, and experts; and
2. Release a 2012 Paris OER Declaration calling on Governments to support the development and use of OERs
3. Celebrate the 10th anniversary of the 2002 UNESCO Forum that created the term OER;

Target Audience

The Congress will bring together Ministers of Education/Human Resource Development, senior policy makers, expert practitioners, researchers and relevant stakeholders to discuss what works and what won't work, and to agree on a Declaration with a set of targets for a 2015 World Conference.

Lead-up Policy Forums and the International Advisory Liaison Group

UNESCO and COL will be organizing lead-up Policy Forums in Africa, Arab States, Latin America, the Caribbean, and Asia-Pacific regions. An International Advisory Liaison Group of Government, IGO, and NGO representatives will be formed to advise on the Congress and the Declaration.

For more information

www.unesco.org/webworld/en/oer

Twitter: #oercongress

Contact:

Mr. Abel Caine a.caine@unesco.org; Ms. Zeynep Varoglu z.varoglu@unesco.org

ICT in Education, Science and Culture Section

Knowledge Societies Division

Communication and Information (CI) Sector

