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- Fryske Academy, The Netherlands (P1, Project coordination)
- Web2learn, Greece (P2, Project management)
- European Schoolnet, Belgium (P3)
- University of Gothenburg, Sweden (P4)
- Jan Dlugosz University, Poland (P5)
- Mykolas Romeris University, Lithuania (P6)
- International Council for Open and Distance Education (ICDE), Norway (P7)
- European Foundation for Quality in E-learning, Belgium (P8)
- Rezekne Higher Education Institution, Latvia (P9)

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1. Summary of the event


The title of the webinar was “Sustainability in OER for less used languages”.

This annual, global event was considered by the LangOER team to be a valuable venue to raise awareness of the benefits of Open Educational Resources (OER) and Open Educational Practices (OEP). This event gave an opportunity to disseminate the ongoing work being done in the state-of-the-art investigation of LangOER and also to increase our network with others within the field of OER and less used languages.

Speakers were Sylvi Vigmo and Linda Bradley from the University of Gothenburg introducing the LangOER-project, Anne-Christin Tannhäuser from the European Foundation for Quality in E-Learning, Simon Horrocks from The Open University in Wales, Jüri Lõssenko from the Innovation Centre Information Technology Foundation for Education, Estonia.

The format the team opted for was a webinar, to promote contact with the audience through an online chat channel during the actual webinar. This format was considered as mutually beneficial and more interactive than a presentation.

2. Target audience and impact

National and international stakeholders within the area of Open Education, E-Learning, Quality Assurance attended the event. There was a broad spectrum of attendees in the audience. The impact was high due to social media coverage through Twitter and the fact that it was an online event. The event was recorded and the recording is linked online on the LangOER website (https://connect.sunet.se/p1njvdjp04a). In this way, the event is preserved for continuous dissemination.
3. Outcomes

The webinar was an opportunity to raise discussions about multilingual dimensions of OER and repositories of OER with partners representing the state-of-the-art investigation, experts in quality aspects of OER in the LangOER-project as well as two national OER projects dealing with less used languages presented by language experts.

From engaging in this event, we have learned more about successful open educational initiatives in less-used and minority languages. Moreover, we could share knowledge and experience of OER together with others, engaged in less used languages. This information was taken into account for the “State-of-the-art” report on OER for less-used languages (http://langoer.eun.org/resources). In addition we learned about future events to sparkle and support open educational practices in less-used and minority languages. In more concrete terms, we were introduced to ongoing initiatives in various stages of development, and in addition how the roles of policies and quality were being addressed in Wales and Estonia.

Through engaging in setting up this event, we have developed our network by collaborating with partners from several countries from leaders of Quality in e-learning (EFQUEL), Higher Education Institutions (University of Gothenburg as well as partners in Wales and Estonia), and experts on e-learning and Open Education (Web2Learn).

4. Other material

a. Picture of the Slideshare space where slides are shared

http://fr.slideshare.net/LangOER/final-lang-oer-webinar-march-14-2014
b. Slides of the event

Sustainability in OER for less used languages

An initiative of the LangOER network
Open Education Week, Friday, March 14, 2014

Linda Bradley, Simon Horrocks, Jüri Lüssenko, Anne-Christin Tannhaüser, Sylvi Vigno, Katerina Zourou

This document forms part of the project "European Dimension". This publication bore responsibility with the author and the Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains herein.
About the LangOER network
European funded network (2014-2016) of 9 partners:

- Fryské Academy, The Netherlands (Project coordination)
- Web2learn, Greece (Project management)
- European Schoolnet, Belgium
- University of Gothenburg, Sweden
- Jan Długosz University, Poland
- Mykolas Romeris University, Lithuania
- International Council for Open and Distance Education (ICDE), Norway
- European Foundation for Quality in E-learning, Belgium
- Rozelne Higher Education Institution, Latvia
Challenges of the project

- Enhance the linguistic and cultural components of OER
- Foster sustainability through OER reuse
- Address needs of policy makers AND educators
- Raise awareness of risk of exclusion of less used languages from the OER landscape
- Offer training to educators of less used languages, face-to-face and online
- Embrace stakeholders of regional and minority languages in remotely located areas of Europe to gain knowledge, develop skills

3 main questions

- How can less used languages, including Regional and Minority languages, benefit from Open Educational Practices (OEP)?
- How can Open Educational Resources (OER) be shaped to foster linguistic and cultural diversity in Europe?
- What policies are favourable to the uptake of quality OER in less used language communities?
Housekeeping

The webinar will be recorded and put online on the project website http://langoer.eun.org/

Feel free to make comments via the text box along the webinar.

There will be Q&A sessions after each presentation and after the last one.

Plan of the webinar

- Overview of OER initiatives in less-used and minority languages (Anne-Chrstin)
- Zoom in: example of an OER initiative of a regional language: Welsh (Simon)
- Zoom in: example of an OER initiative of a small state language: Estonia (Jun)
- How OER initiatives from regional and (small) state languages are represented in the international OER scene? (Linda and Sylvai)
Multilingual OER & OER for language learning

3 Selected Initiatives

Anne-Christin Tannhäuser
European Foundation for Quality in E-Learning

http://loro.open.ac.uk/
http://learn.openscout.net/

http://www.organic-edunet.eu/
OER in Estonia

Jüri Lõssenko
Innovation Centre
Information Technology Foundation for Education, Estonia
Repositories

HITSA Innovatsioonikasikus
http://e-ope.ee/repositoorium/
- ~4500 entries
- Languages: Estonian - 3625, Russian - 375, English - 450, others - 50
- Mainly resources from curricula of vocational schools and HEIs (48 institutions)
- ~2500 learning objects and ~2000 resources from course materials
- ~170 000 academic hours of learning
- 90% of resources created with support from European Social Funds

Repositories

Koolielu – http://koolielu.ee/waramu
- ~7500 entries, all pre-moderated
- Resources covering general education, all connected to national curricula
- 70% of entries are references to resources in other locations
- ~7% are (partially) financed by third parties
Usability

Koolielu
- Registered users 11 068
- 790 000 visits in 2013
- Top 10 resources viewed between 1700 – 2800 times each in 2013

HITSA Innovatsionikeskus
- ~800 000 visits in 2013
- ~40 000 downloads in 2013
- Top 10 resources downloaded between 2600 – 4800 times each in 2013

Sharing our point of view:

• Did you foresee sharing of resources in languages other than yours?
• Do users have the possibility (technically) to share resources in languages other than yours or resources need to be in your language only?
• Which is your point of view on linguistic diversity and OER
• Should (unilingual) OER continue to exist or should we move into multilingual repositories?
Open Learn Cymru
and the Development of Welsh OER

Simon Horrocks
Assistant Director (Development, Learning and Teaching)
The Open University in Wales

Welsh Language Context

Welsh language OER developments need to be understood in the context of the Welsh Government’s ‘A living language: a language for living - Welsh language strategy 2012 to 2017’

- One of the six aims of ‘A living language’ is to ‘strengthen the infrastructure for the language, including digital technology’

- Also see the Welsh Government’s Welsh-medium Education Strategy
Welsh-medium OER in the context of Higher Education (1)

Welsh-medium higher education is a key component of the Welsh government strategy for the sector.

This is underpinned by the work of the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol whose aims include:

‘to enrich, deepen and broaden the provision for students, stimulating and responding to demand from students and thereby increasing the numbers of students studying through the medium of Welsh.’

Welsh-medium OER in the context of Higher Education (2)

The Wales Open Education Declaration of Intent (September 2013) is a clear statement by the Welsh higher education sector outlining its commitment to OEP.

A bilingual national portal for OER is under development and the OER15 conference will take place in Wales.
The OpenLearn Cymru Project (1)

Building on the vast experience and expertise of the Open University in open education, The Open University in Wales is developing a new platform called OpenLearn Cymru. This will provide a rich resource for OER in Welsh and/or about Wales.

OpenLearn Cymru will take some of its content from the Open University’s main OpenLearn site, translating existing study units into Welsh.

Some OpenLearn Cymru content is also being drawn from other sources and/or created from scratch.

The OpenLearn Cymru Project (2)

Questions and challenges:

• translating/versioning English-language OER for Welsh-speaking learners

• developing/adapting the infrastructure to create/promote use of Welsh-medium OER

• maximising potential for Welsh-medium OER through collaboration
Sharing our point of view:

• Did you foresee sharing of resources in languages other than yours?
• Do users have the possibility (technically) to share resources in languages other than yours or resources need to be in your language only?
• Which is your point of view on linguistic diversity and OER
• Should (unilingual) OER continue to exist or should we move into multilingual repositories?

Challenges of the project

Repositories of OER from a multilingual perspective

Sylv Vigmo & Linda Bradley
Current work in the LangOER project: State-of-the-art investigation

- In-depth research of existing OERs in small languages with primary input from the following project partners:
  - Cor van der Meer (Frisian, Dutch)
  - Katerina Zourou (Greek)
  - Sanita Lazdiņa, (Latvian)
  - Vaida Zuzveidūtė (Lithuanian)
  - Gosia Kurek (Polish)
  - Linda Bradley Sylvi Vígmo (Swedish)
  - Giulia Torresin (French)

- A State-of-the-art report will be finished by 30 April

- To build a framework we are investigating reports, articles and sites for OER quality components

- Short survey of experiences of experts of OER and OEP

Answers from experts: Studies on ROER - a linguistic perspective

- search for different terms
- large scale implementation of big languages exists
- LORO
- an "under-researched" field
Features of OERs from less used languages

- National OER initiatives with international connection
- Local initiatives

- Challenging dimensions for sustainability and quality of OER in the state-of-the-art report
  - open
  - public
  - redesign
  - adaptable
  - can be redistributed by others

Preliminary findings from investigation

- Challenges in shared understanding of boundaries and delimitation of OER

- Acknowledging the idea of OER, even if there is a multitude of how this is addressed

- Parts of OER characteristics are found in the languages investigated

- Design features going beyond the social, local context be addressed?
Questions for speakers and the audience

- What are lessons learnt from driving initiatives in less used languages?
- What are main recommendations to OER advocates/activists in other less used languages?

Thank you! Staying in touch:

http://langoer.eun.org/
#langOER

@actwww: Anne-Christin
@horrocks_simon: Simon
@alibra1: Linda and Sylvi
@web2learn_eu: Katerina
The webinar environment with the presenters in the top right corner. The active chat where participants of the webinar could interact with the presenters in the bottom right corner.

c. Screenshot of the announcement page