Deliverable 38k: Teaching and Learning less used languages through OER and OEP, parallel session at LINQ Conference, Brussels, 12 May 2015
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Project Title</strong></th>
<th>Enhance Teaching and Learning of Less Used Languages through OER/OEP</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Project Acronym</strong></td>
<td>LangOER</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Funding Programme</strong></td>
<td>Lifelong Learning Programme, KA2 Languages</td>
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<td>543239-LLP-1-2013-1-LV-KA2-KA2NW</td>
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<td><strong>Project Start</strong></td>
<td>January, 1st, 2014</td>
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<td><strong>Project Duration</strong></td>
<td>36 months</td>
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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 Długosz 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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| **Status** | Final |
| **Contractual day of delivery** | 15 May 2015 |
| **Nature of the deliverable** | E – Event |
| **Dissemination level** | PU = Public |
| **Author(s) and their institutions** | Valentina Garoia, European Schoolnet |
| **Contributor(s) and their institutions** | / |

Revised by Valentina Garoia

| **History** | 13 May 2015 |
1. **Summary of the event**

European Schoolnet took part in a parallel session that was organised at the LINQ Conference in Brussels, Belgium, on 12-13 May 2015 (conference website: [http://2015.learning-innovations.eu](http://2015.learning-innovations.eu)).

The title of the parallel session was “Teaching and Learning through OER: Selected EU & International Projects” and it aimed to explore a number of projects dealing with OER and OEP. Each project had about 10/15 minutes to present and some time for questions was left at the end. Valentina Garoia from European Schoolnet gave a presentation on the LangOER project, specifically focusing at “Teaching and Learning less used languages through OER and OEP”. The other presentations were about international projects aiming at developing OERs for different purposes and goals, e.g. “Open Science Training for European Research” by Martin Donnelly (EIFL Open Access Programme), “Universal Design for Learning: a framework for addressing learner variability” by Katerina Riviou (Ellinogermaniki Agogi), or “Quality Education Improvement Program through Science” by Houraye M. Anne.

The scope of the International LINQ Conference is the modernization and improvement of learning, education and training through the focus on Learning Innovations and Learning Quality. Each year, LINQ brings together experts and practitioners from all educational levels, sectors and fields to share and discuss experiences, good examples and future trends. Several hundred participants from four continents were expected to participate in this year’s event. Thus, LINQ is a truly international conference for lively debates and interactive sessions.

The motto of the International LINQ Conference 2015 is: “The Need for Change in Education: Openness as Default?”, which perfectly fits with the scope of the LangOER project.
2. Target audience and impact

The presentation was given to about 25/30 people. They were educational stakeholders, European project managers, researchers etc. The room was completely full and the audience followed the LangOER presentation with interest.

The presentation aimed at introducing the LangOER project, with an overview of the main activities carried out and foreseen in the future. The state-of-the-art report was briefly presented, in order to give the audience an idea of the current situation of OER in less used languages. Few insights were also given about why OER matter for less used languages and the presenter explained the benefits of OER for less used languages from a multilingual perspective. A quick snapshot of the typical activities carried out during the training for educators was also given, as well as a snapshot of the recommendations for policy makers recently published.

The presentation triggered some questions during the lunch break, where the presenter had the opportunity to discuss with a number of other speakers.

Moreover, LangOER leaflet and bookmark were also distributed during the session and participants seemed to enjoy the reading and were willing to bring them home in order to look for more information about the project.

3. Outcomes

The presentation allowed a number of teachers, European project managers, educational stakeholders and also researchers to be introduced to the state-of-the-art of OER in less used languages, be aware of the risk of exclusion of small languages in the OER landscape and learn about further activities within the LangOER project.

The presentation also allowed the LangOER project to explore possible synergies with other European and international projects. There was not much time left at the end of the session to address questions, but during the break several participants and also some speakers went to talk to the presenter to ask for further information about the project. In particular a discussion with Mrs. Houraye M. Anne (anneh000@hotmail.com) took place and potential synergies were explored with regards to some language initiatives in Africa. Even though educational system are quite different compared to Europe, they face a similar situation when it comes to small and local languages. Another discussion took place with Mrs. Cynthia Jimes from ISKME, USA, whose presentation was about supporting cross-curricular lessons focused on building students’ literacy and languages skills. In particular, they aim to use OER and foster teachers’ collaboration at school. Potential synergies might be explored in this direction too.

4. Slides

The slides are published on the LangOER Slideshare channel at:

Teaching and learning less used languages through OER and OEP

Valentina Garoia, European Schoolnet, Brussels

LINQ Conference, Brussels, 12 May 2015

Content of the presentation

- Introduction to the LangOER project
- Why do OER matter for less used languages?
- State of the art report
- Overview of Repositories for Language Learning
- How CC savvy are you? How to find OER?
**Definition of OER:**

- teaching, learning and research materials in the public domain OR released under an open license
- no-cost access
- possible to adapt and redistribute with no or limited restrictions

*UNESCO, 2012, Paris OER Declaration*

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**LangOER project partners**

- **FRYSEKA AKADEMIES**
  The Netherlands
- **Web2learn Consultants**
  Greece
- **Linnaeus University**
  Sweden
- **European Schoolnet**
  Belgium
- **MNKOS**
  Lithuania
- **SME**
  Latvia
- **MRU**
  Norway
Why do OER matter for less used languages?

Shortage of freely accessible resources in less used languages
- There is a need for less used languages to openly license existing resources.

Reluctance to use OER in languages other than the native language
- 50 million people in Europe speak a regional or minority language (10% of the population).
- 35% would rather use material produced in their own country.

OER as means to face cultural/linguistic hegemony
- Adoption of OER/OEP is much more pressing for less used languages and on a global scale their lack threatens linguistic and cultural diversity.

Scope of the LangOER project

- Enhance the linguistic and cultural components of OER
- Foster sustainability through OER reuse
- Raise awareness of risk of exclusion of less used languages
- Address needs of educators and policy makers:
  - Offer training to educators of less used languages, including regional and minority languages // share good practice – HAPPENING NOW IN 5 countries (Estonia, Greece, Poland, Lithuania and Latvia)
  - International policy makers capacity building // support policy makers seeking to overcome barriers for OER uptake – RECOMMENDATIONS – policy brief paper just published
1st Strand of activities

- **State-of-the art report of OER in less used languages**
  - The report covers 23 languages
  - Available in Dutch, Frisian, Greek, Latvian, Lithuanian, Policy, Swedish

- **Diverse national approaches to OER (initiatives, incentives..)**

- **OER in less used languages: from languages with considerable OER to languages with few or no OER at all**
  - A few large repositories with a high number of OER (e.g. in Estonian & Swedish)
  - No country specific OER repository in Frisian

- **Some state-funded initiative: KlasCement by the Flemish government**

- **Commonly less open to modification**

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Language learning repositories – A diverse picture

POERUP: [http://www.poerup.org.uk/oer/api/v1.0/mapTypes/?oerType=OER](http://www.poerup.org.uk/oer/api/v1.0/mapTypes/?oerType=OER)
Openness

REUSE, REVISE, REMIX, REDISTRIBUTE

REUSE AND REDISTRIBUTE ONLY

REUSE

Taken from Hilton, J. and Wiley, D. (2010)

Getting Started.....Are you CC savy?

Creative Commons Licenses

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You can redistribute (copy, publish, display, communicate, etc.)

You have to attribute the original work

You can use the work commercially

You can modify and adapt the original work

You can choose license type for your adaptations of the work
How to find free images and other media on the web?

**Strategy 1:** Use a dedicated CC search engine which filters the web content for licensed materials. The best example here is a [Creative Commons search engine](#).

**Strategy 2:** Use advanced search preferences in the Google (or other search engine).

**Strategy 3:** Use one of the dedicated repositories of images or other media.
Staying in touch – Thank you!

### Upcoming activities:

Final Conference (2016)

**#langOER**

**LangOER**

**OER and languages**

**OER and languages**

**LangOER teachers’ group**

[http://langoer.eun.org](http://langoer.eun.org)  [Valentina.Garoia@eun.org](mailto:Valentina.Garoia@eun.org)

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**ADDITIONAL MATERIAL**
Recommendations for policy makers

1. Adopt national policies in support of Open Educational Resources in less used languages.
2. Facilitate partnerships with private, public and the educational sector, market places and collaborative arenas for quality OER.
3. Take the leadership in supporting the development of open frameworks and standards to ease the ability of OER repositories and systems to work together (provide and accept educational content, compatible applications and contextualised services).

...but there are some challenges

- Searching, discoverability and sharing
- Copyright/Licensing
- Quality (quality assurance indicators e.g. featured resources, source code, multilingual support)
- Concepts of the culture of OEP and reflective practice is novel to some groups
- Incentives for fully sustained development
5. Other material (agenda, pictures)

Screenshots of the projects session (with LangOER presentation in yellow) and the whole programme of the conference can be viewed here below. The full programme is published at this url: http://2015.learning-innovations.eu/ling-2015-programme/ The projects session can be found at: http://2015.learning-innovations.eu/linq-session-1-3-selected-projects-from-call

Some pictures taken during the workshop are also published here below.
LINQ 2015 Programme

The International LINQ 2015 Conference is taking place from **11th to 13th of May 2015 in Brussels**.

The **Pre-Conference Day** on 11th of May 2015 consists of interactive workshops for specific topics and target groups: The High Level Event on Innovative School Education by ODS and the pre-conference workshop on Inclusive Education by UNESCO and EBE-EUSMOSI.

The **LINQ Conference Day 1** on 12th of May 2015 combines a Plenary in the morning, parallel sessions and the special Conference Event "Explore Inspiring Science Education!" by the pioneering Inspiring Science Education initiative (ISE) centred on their experience in technology-enhanced science education.

The **LINQ Conference Day 2** on 13th of May 2015 combines parallel sessions in the morning and a Plenary in the afternoon. It concludes with a LINQ and ICORE Farewell Reception.

The confirmed **Keynote Speakers** and **Invited Speakers** can be found [here](#).

The full LINQ 2015 Conference Programme is available as [download here](#).
LINQ Session 1-3: Selected Projects from Call

Presentations of Accepted Scientific Papers (LINQ Call for Papers)

12 of May 2015 (LINQ Conference day 1): 11:30 – 13:00 in Room Heine

Chair: tbc

Teaching and Learning through Open Educational Resources (OER) and Practices (OEP)

11:30 – “ECVET-STEP: ECVET for Strengthening Training to Employment Pathways” presented by Cleo Sgouropoulou (TEIA)

11:40 – “LangOER: Teaching and learning of less used languages through Open Educational Resources and Practices” presented by Valentina Garola (European Schoolnet)

11:50 – “FOSTER: Facilitate Open Science Training for European Research” presented by Martin Donnelly (EIFL Open Access Programme)

12:00 – “ISOLearn: Innovation and social learning in HEI” presented by Ana Maria Cotovanu (Effebi Association)

12:10 – “QEIPS: Quality Education Improvement Program through Science” presented by Houraye M. Anne
Teaching and learning less used languages through OER and OEP

Valentina Garoia, European Schoolnet, Brussels

LiNQ Conference, Brussels, 12 May 2015
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LINQ

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