Towards an Open Education Area between Asia and Europe: Policy and Institutional Recommendations

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Ruhr West University of Applied Sciences
Hochschule Ruhr West
Ruhr West University of Applied Sciences

History
• Founded in 2009
• Public institution, regional development
• 2600 students, 60 professors and growing 😊
• Western Ruhr area (Bottrop, Mülheim)

Focus Areas
• Civil Engineering
• Business Administration - International Trade Management & Logistics
• Mechatronics
• Human-Machine-Interaction
• Business Information Systems
• Master Programme Business Administration
Focus areas
- Business Information Systems
- Process Management
- Supporting globally distributed workgroups
- Open Educational Resources
- Reference Modeling

E-Learning
- Supporting international education settings
- Cultural adaptation
- Standardization & Quality Management
- Mobile & Ambient Learning
- Innovative tools and solutions

Some of my previous projects
- **EAGLE**: E-Learning in Public Administration
- Play4Guidance: Business Games for Entrepreneurs
- **Open Educational Ideas and Innovations (OEI2)**
- Nordic Open Education Alliance
- **OpenDiscoverySpace**: OER for Schools
- **OpenScout**: OER for Management
Open Education

• Open Education contains concepts and approaches allowing and providing free access, re-use and adaptation of educational artefacts using an appropriate license.

• Amongst them…
  – Open Educational Resources: Learning Objects, Simulations, …
  – Open Educational Practices: Scenarios, Lesson Plans, Experiences
  – Open Access: Publications
  – Open Source: Systems and tools, e.g. LMS, authoring, …
The current situation

- Lack of quality = fitness for context
- Barriers
  - Lack of policies
  - Lack of knowledge
  - Lack of rewards / recognition
- Lack of contributing users
- Lack of sustainable networks

- Lack of collaboration, in particular between continents…
Vision: Asian-European Open Education Area

• Creating an Open Education Area between Asia and Europe

• Utilizing Open Education, Open Educational Resources and Open Educational Practices as a basis for collaboration

• Creating networks of collaborators in different disciplines

• Reducing cost while improving quality of programs, courses and materials

• Improving education in Asia and Europe!
Key Challenges

• How to arrange collaborations between Asia and Europe?

• How to achieve mutual benefits and get away from one-way transfer / export strategies?

• What needs to be improved and changed on different levels?
  – (National and Regional) Policies
  – Institutions‘ Strategies and Guidelines
  – Individuals‘ Behavior and Attitudes
  – …
Policy Level: Focus on Strategy Development

• Reinforce the development of strategies and policies on OER
  – Use good practices (e.g. Philippines, Lithuania)

• Foster strategic alliances for OER.
  – Utilize existing networks and country collaborations

• Encourage the open licensing of educational materials produced with public funds

• Encourage the development and adaptation of OER in a variety of languages and cultural contexts

• Encourage research on OER
Organizational Level: Focus on Quality and Change

• Build organizational partnerships / Use existing partnerships for Open Educational collaborations

• Incorporate OER collaborations into organizational strategies

• Recognition of OER development
  – Incorporate OER into assessment / tenure procedures

• Support capacity building for the sustainable development of quality learning materials
  – OER Guidelines

• Foster awareness and use of OER

• Promote collaborative authoring tools in networks of organizations
Individual Level: Focus on Collaboration

- Create small but trusted networks of people
- Provide collaboration and networking tools instead of repositories
- Bring people together with similar requirements and needs
  - Example: http://www.idea-space.eu
- Develop internationalization / adaptation / contextualization tools
  - Promoting multi-lingual development / adaptation
Summary

• Open Education is a promising concept for collaboration across continents
• Barriers still exist on policy, organizational and individual levels

• The Asia-Europe Open Education Area can lead to many benefits for society, organizations and individuals
• Recommendations need to be implemented in partnerships between countries, universities and experts

• ASEM should be leading this visionary action!
• Let us create the future of cross-continent education!
Thank you for listening!

Questions? Comments?
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