OLCOS – Open eLearning Content Observatory Services

INFORMATION SERVICE FOR OPEN DIGITAL EDUCATIONAL CONTENT

Project Objectives

Focus of the project is the development of self-organised, technology enhanced learning and digital competencies and skills for the knowledge society – students, teachers and professors - rather than products for teaching and learning. Presently the benefits and characteristics of open source software in education are apparent and widely acknowledged. However, this is not the case with respect to the concept of other Open Educational Resources, such as digital open content that may particularly benefit flexible and open learning models (e.g. collaborative knowledge and skills building) in schools, higher educational institutions and vocational training. OER is firstly about open educational practices for such development and understands open digital content as a means to this end enabling the change of current educational practices.

OLCOS, the Open eLearning Content Observatory Services project (1/2006-12/2007) is funded by the European Union's eLearning Programme and aims at establishing a virtual (online) information and observation service for promoting the concept, the production and the usage of open educational resources with special respect to open (e-)learning practices using Open Digital Educational Content (ODEC) in Europe.

Results

Open Educational Practices and Resources. OLCOS Roadmap 2012:

This study explores the possible pathways towards a higher level of production, sharing and usage of Open Educational Resources. The OLCOS Roadmap will provide an orientation as well as recommendations on possible measures and actions to support decision-making at the level of educational policy and institutions.

Open learning practices with Open Educational Resources (OLCOS TUTORIALS):

A set of online tutorials that provide information and guidance on how to practically work with Open Educational Resources, particularly Open Digital Educational Content, will be developed. These tutorials have different modules e.g. PLAN - SEARCH&FIND - PRODUCE&REMIX - SHARE - LICENSE Open Educational Resources (Content) and will be freely accessible on the web in several languages.

Awareness raising workshops:

Several awareness raising workshops in the European eLearning community will be designed to foster the take-up of the concept of OER and how to develop the required infrastructures, legally sound practices, educational policies and organisational strategies.

Results can be downloaded at:
www.olcos.org

Target Groups

OLCOS primary target groups are the producers and consumers of eLearning teaching and learning material (eg. students/teachers/lecturers). OLCOS secondary target groups are the educational institutions and eLearning centres needed to provide an organisational setting and support. Educational policy makers would be needed to encourage sound legislative infrastructure. Last but not least technology developers and researchers are encouraged to provide easy software solutions enabling open eLearning practices.

Project Consortium

The project consortium consists of six institutions from five European countries and is co-ordinated by Salzburg Research (Austria):

| Fernuniversitaet in Hagen, Germany (Distance University)
| European Centre for Media Competence, Germany
| European Distance and E-Learning Network, Hungary
| Mediamaisteri Group, Finland
| Open University of Catalonia, Spain
| Salzburg Research Forschungsgesellschaft, Austria (project co-ordinator)

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