Open Education as an opportunity to reshape Western Balkans education
18-20 September 2017, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Open Educational Resources in Macedonia
- Current Situation, Challenges and Initiatives -

Zoran Janevski Ph.D.

Associate Professor

"Ss. Cyril and Methodius" University in Skopje

Institute of Economics – Skopje, Macedonia

Alliance for OER in Macedonia

zoran.janevski@gmail.com

18 September 2017, Ljubljana

Macedonian Educational *Context*

- Population over 2 million people
- Primary education:
  - Lasts 9 years
  - 192,715 students, 17,887 teachers
- Secondary education:
  - Lasts 3-4 years
  - 76,394 students, 7,420 teachers)
- Higher education:
  - 4,114 teachers at 19 Higher Education Institutions (Universities, Faculties, …)
  - 58,083 enrolled students in the academic year 2016/2017
  - In 2016, a total of 2 021 persons obtained the titles of Master of Science and Specialist
  - 197 persons have gained the title "Doctor of Science" in 2016
- Internet penetration:
  - Population aged 15-74 – 72%
  - Internet most used by students – 100%
  - 99.2% of all households with Internet access have broadband (fixed or mobile) connection to the Internet
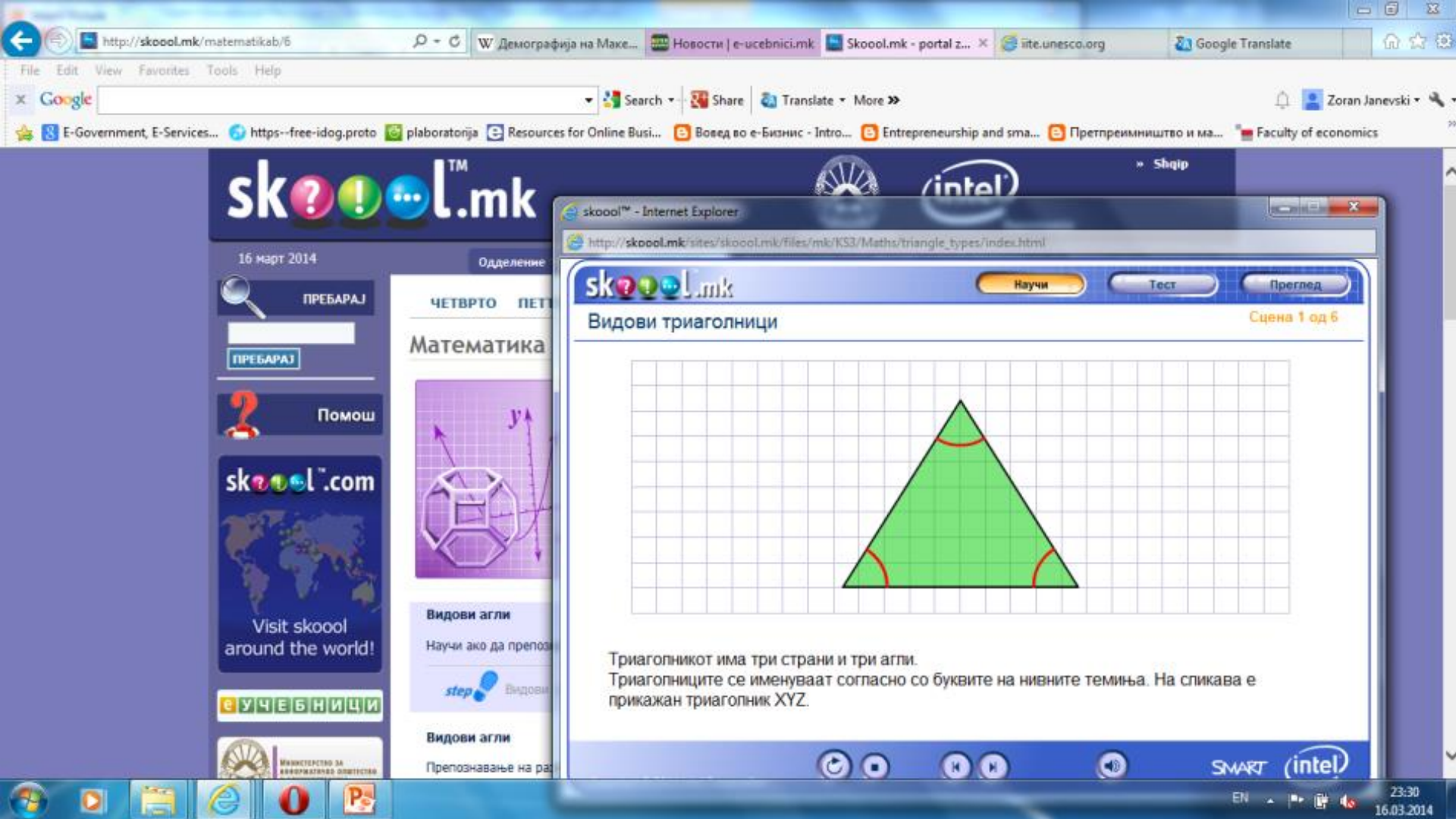- Textbooks for Primary and Secondary Education:
  - Free of charge

OER Policy and Regulation

- Education has a constitutional basis
- No policy and regulation on OER
- Law on Primary Education
  a) mandatory and free of charge
  b) public interest
  c) IT technologies (Internet) must be used
- Law on Secondary Education
  a) secondary education is also defined as public interest, it is mandatory and free in public high schools
- Law on Textbooks for Primary and Secondary Education
  a) Textbooks are free of charge
  b) Proposed by the Bureau for Development of Education and confirmed by the minister
- Law on Copyright and Related Rights
  a) Defines the principles that regulate the rights of textbooks' authors, regardless the form of the textbooks – printed or electronic
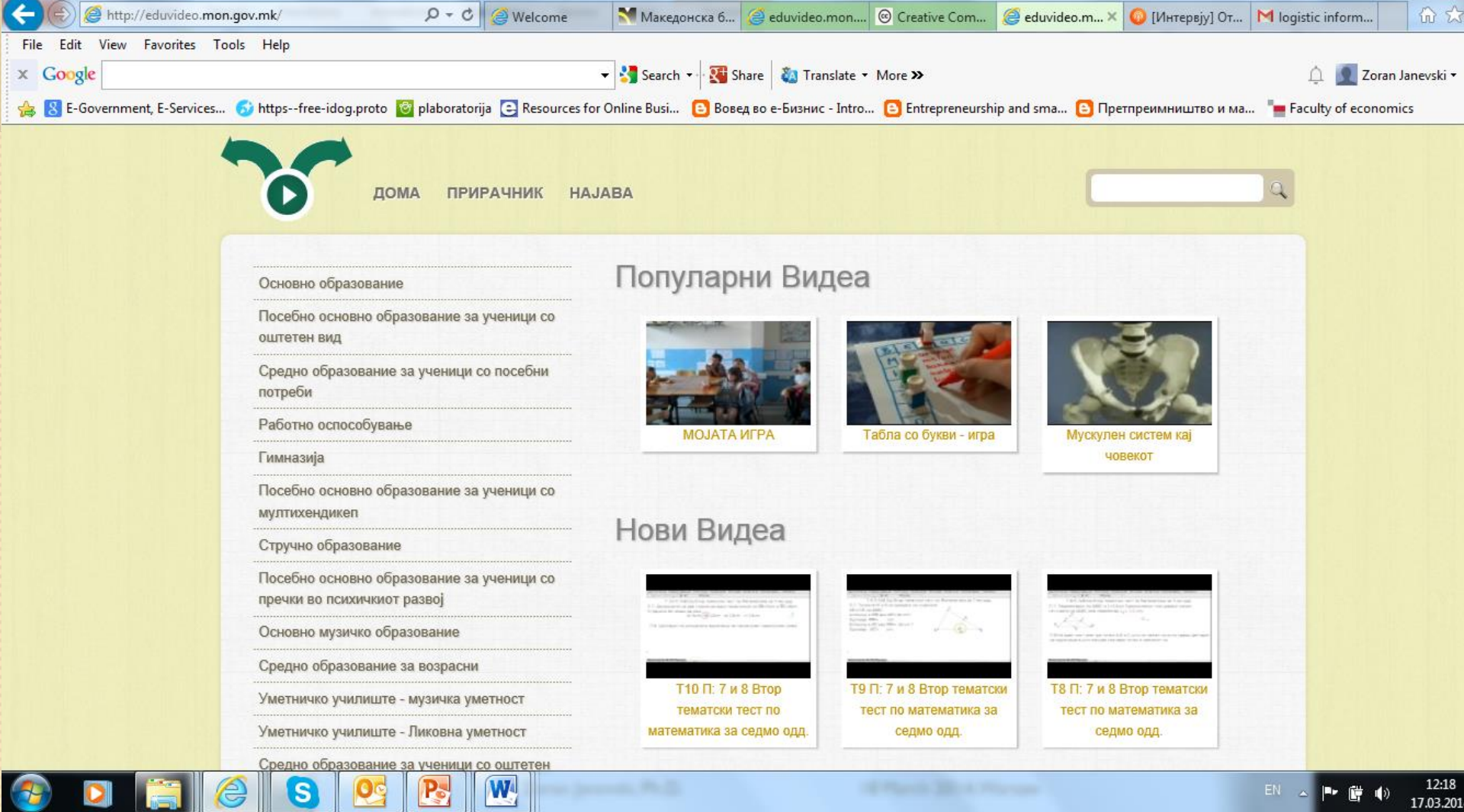
Content

- 2007 - Computer for every student, 1.45:1 (students per computer

- 2009 - E-Contents (www.skoool.mk)

- 2010 - National Strategy and Action Plan for e-Content Development 2010-2015

- 2009- 2012 - E-Textbook Portal, 60+ textbooks (www.e-ucebnici.mon.gov.mk)

- 2011 - Web portal - video content aggregator

(http://eduvideos.mon.gov.mk)

SPORADIC INNITIATIVES

www.skoool.mk

http://eduvideos.mon.gov.mk

www.e-ucebnici.mon.gov.mk

E-Textbooks Portal - *random, fragmented and unregulated open access to textbooks in Macedonia*

- Digital e-Textbooks Library

- Absence of a comprehensive policy and procedures for its implementation and use

- No value added, just a digital copy of the existing paperback textbooks

- Randomness

- Fragmentation - 'e-textbooks' is a static window, "Search" is still "Under Construction"

- It provides incomplete textbooks

- No use of Creative Commons

- Authors have heard but do not really know much about the open access (OA) to textbooks

- MoE must lead towards OA and OE

Macedonian OER - current situation (an opportunity)

- Metamorphosis – the biggest supporter and initiator

- OER in Macedonia – Raising awareness (academic community)

  - OER Coordinative Group - 2012

  - OER Alliance – 2013 (585 individuals, 20 institutions)

  - Web site (www.oer.mk) and Social Media

    - Facebook - 15,000+ fans, Twitter - 400+ followers

  - Resource Center (www.oer.mk/resources)

    - 300+ users, 4600+ resources

  - Public Lectures, Workshops, Conferences (2012, Open Education for an Open Society, >250 participants, 36 speakers)

www.oer.mk

www.oer.mk/resources

Initiatives

- Declaration on OER in Macedonia (Based on the Paris Declaration) in cooperation with the National Commission for UNESCO of Macedonia.

- Web application (http://oer.mk/sign/index.php/pages/signup)

- Round Tables with participants from primary and secondary schools, universities, libraries, non-governmental organizations and public institutions.

- Discussions with the Government (MON, MIOA, MOC) on OER cooperation, and preparation for the law amendments. Raising awareness among government officials.

- Production and distribution of promotional material (Video Clip (http://oer.mk/sign/index.php/pages/video/) brochures, leaflets, t-shirts and mobile phone holders with personalized messages (And *Name* supports OER, too.),

Challenges and Future Plans

- OE and OER Sustainability (through introduction of the OE and OER into the Law on Textbooks, and other Edu-Laws).

- OER Alliance in Macedonia to become more recognizable and with more members (1000 individuals, 50 organizations).

- Cooperation with Metamorphosis and other promoters and supporters if possible.

- Continue and intensify discussions with the Government and establish partnership.

- Continue Raising Awareness especially among Government and Ministries, Universities, Research Centers, Business Sector (Lifelong learning, On-the-job training) and introduce more innovative approach.

THANK YOU