

# Opening up Member States: “Opening up Balkans” as regional pilot for Openness

Open Education as an opportunity to  
reshape Western Balkans education

18-20 September 2017, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Serbia

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# Overview

- OER in Serbia are not yet recognized in official documents nor widely used in the educational setting
- Existing regulations open the possibilities for the development of OER but need further improvement at the national and institutional level in compliance with OER regulations in Europe
- Awareness of the importance of OER, opportunities they offer, methods of development and implementation, and the use thereof, needs to be raised in the educational setting

# Policy Action - Education Development Strategy in Serbia up to 2020

## Key achievements

- Adopted by the Government of Serbia in 2012
- Criticizes traditional tendencies of the education system for independence from other systems and promotes its openness
- Specifically targets openness and accessibility of higher education

## Challenges

- Opportunities the strategy offers for legal regulation of ideas related to OER need to be operationalized into other policy documents related to education

# Policy Action - Information Society Development Strategy in Serbia up to 2020

## Key achievements

- Adopted by the Government of Serbia in 2010
- Fosters application of information technology in education
- Emphasizes the development of digital educational content as one of the main goals to be achieved

## Challenges

- Use possibilities for introducing OER the strategy opens by referring to introduction of modern concepts of e-learning and open distance learning

# Policy Action - The Law on Higher Education in Serbia

## Key achievements

- Declares openness of higher education towards all citizens and general public as one of its main principles
- Complies with the European system of higher education specifically promoting academic mobility of faculty and students
- Provides a starting point for the development and implementation of OER through alignment with successful European practices and academic mobility

## Challenges

- The new Draft law that has been submitted to the Parliament for adoption does not mention specifically OER
- Formulate amendments for including open education and OER in the Law the future

# Capacity Building

## Key achievements

- University of Belgrade library Svetozar Marković organized a seminar of open access to education, open education and massive open online courses
- University of Belgrade established its Center for e-Learning and Distance Education
- Balkan Distance Education Network (BADEN) became the Epprobate (first international quality label for eLearning courseware) national partner for WB region

## Challenges

- Awareness of the importance of OER and opportunities they offer needs to be raised within the educational community
- Lack of current policies and practices related to OER
- Workshops are needed on methods of development, implementation and the use of OER

# Services and Content

## Key achievements

- Wikimedia Serbia was founded with the aim to allow free exchange of knowledge and participation in gathering educational content
- Creative Commons Serbia project was launched and national CC standards were adopted
- Khan Academy Serbia has started the translation of Khan Academy instructional videos
- BAEKTEL Meta portal was developed for searching and browsing OER based on their metadata in various languages and populated by initial OER

## Challenges

- Services based mostly on voluntary participation
- Motivate people to engage in activities for further development of services and content (current problem with Khan Academy Serbia)
- Development of a national repository for OER
- Raising visibility of services and content and enlargement of user population using modern approaches such as gamification
- Further improve multilinguality features

# Research and Development

## Key achievements

- Tempus BAEKTEL (Blending Academic and Entrepreneurial knowledge in Technology Enhanced Learning) - developed an environment for creating publishing and searching OER content by academic and entrepreneurial organizations
- Tempus CaSA (A Sustainable Tool for Knowledge and Innovation Transfer in Animal Sciences) created NaRA - National Repository for Agricultural Education.

## Challenges

- Lack of national projects for development of OER
- More Erasmus+ projects are needed (NETCHEM – ongoing, aimed at OER production in Instrumental Analytical Chemistry education)
- Interest in research on OER needs to be raised within the research community



# Supportive Environments

## Key achievements

- BAEKTEL edX portal for publishing OERs
- Adding and easy editing of videos, tasks, and texts
- Combining different components in the same unit
- Wide range of tasks in various forms
- Monitoring the progress of users
- Detailed description of learning materials
- Easy to use

## Challenges

- Development of BOER (Balkan OER network)
- A collaborative BAEKTEL initiative for producing OER within a network of Balkan universities, taking into account the diverse nature of regional and local features of Balkan countries
- The start-up initiative for this network to be presented by all BAEKTEL partner universities through seminars and conferences at a number of Balkan universities
- Further popularization of this initiative throughout the Balkan academic community