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OER and the importance of Open Educators

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Menu of the day

- 16.30 Warm up & critical questions, by Daniel
Presentation of OEF and quick demo of the platform, by Fabio
- 17.00 Experts round table (T. Amiel, C. de la Higuera, A. Camilleri),
moderated by Daniel
- *what could be done to empower open educators?*
 - *how can OEF contribute to make this happen?*
- 17.30 Wrap up and conclusions, by Fabio
- 17.45 Time to play with the platform and to setup collaborations

Rationale: why the OEF research



<http://www.freakingnews.com/Snail-Pictures--1603.asp>

Why Open Education adoption is so slow? What do we need?

Critical questions

- Why is that important to become an open educator?
- What challenges do the teachers face in the process?
- What benefits will the various stakeholders get?
- Is it bad or wrong not to become an open educator ever?

We need a peaceful army of Open Educators.

Educators (professors, tutors, lecturers) are the ones who should drive the change towards openness, they must must transform from **agents of resistance** into **agents of change**.



<https://fr.pinterest.com/pin/545780048568142339/>

The OEF research

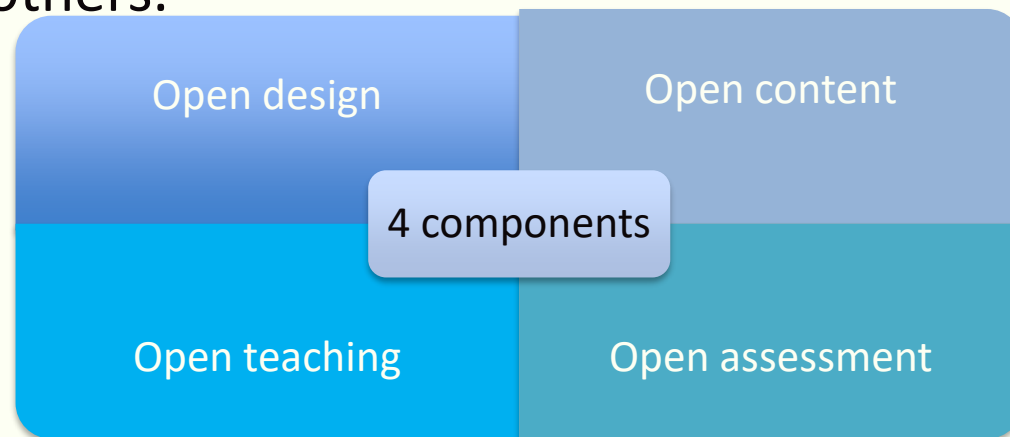
1. Explore concept of “Open Educator” along all its components
2. Design, build and test a tool that can contribute to transform HE teachers into Open Educators
3. Promote the use of the tool among universities
4. Analyse the data and propose recommendations



Definiton of Open Educator

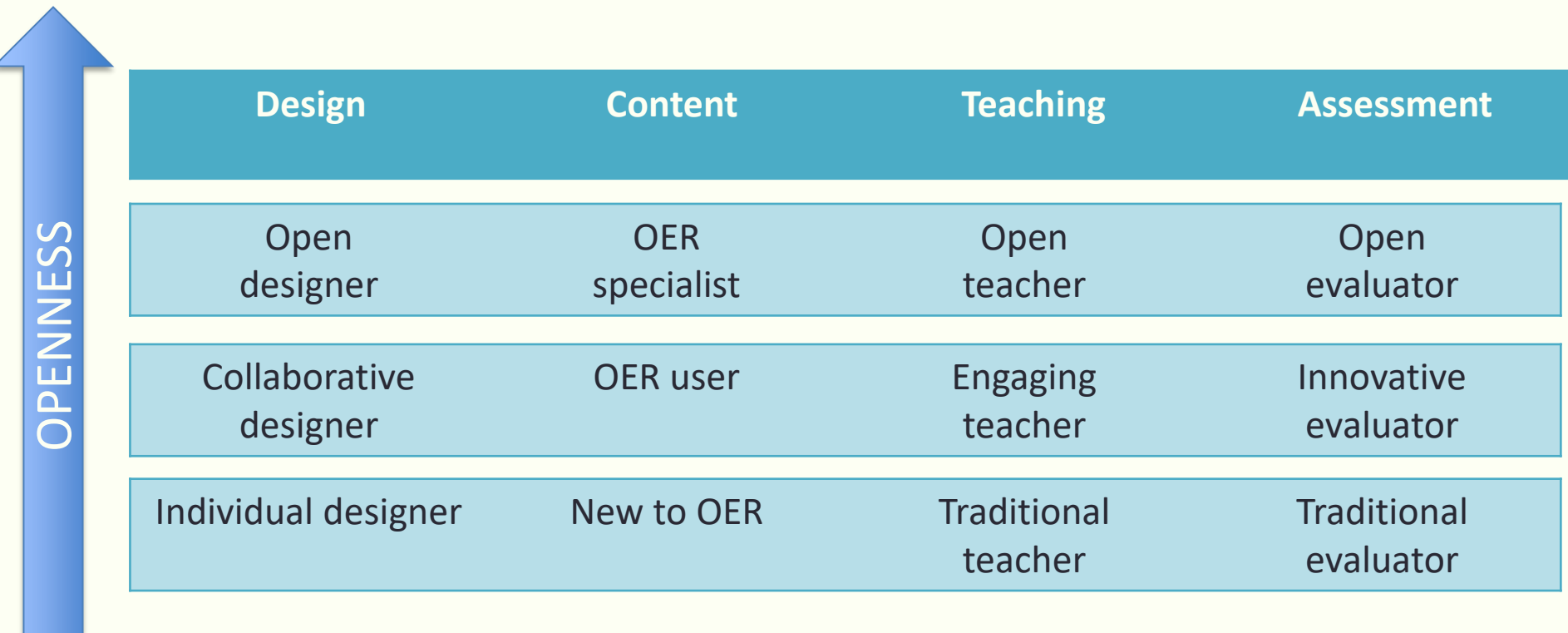
An Open Educator **choses** to use open approaches, **when possible and appropriate**, with the aim to remove all unnecessary barriers to learning.

He/she works through an **open online identity** and relies on online **social networking** to enrich and implement her work, understanding that collaboration bears a **responsibility** towards the work of others.



Nascimbeni, Burgos (2016). In search for the Open Educator, IRRODL, 17 (6)

The OEF Framework



The OEF web platform

The screenshot shows the OEF web platform interface. At the top, there is a green header with the OEF logo and 'unir research' text, along with navigation links for 'About' and 'Sign up', and flags for the United Kingdom, Spain, France, and Italy. The main content area has a dark background with the title 'OPEN EDUCATORS FACTORY' in white. Below the title, there are three blue boxes containing text. The first box describes the platform's purpose. The second box provides instructions for university educators. The third box provides instructions for university managers. To the right of the text boxes is a white login form with fields for 'Email' and 'Password', a 'Login' button, a 'Forgot your password?' link, and a 'Sign up' button. At the bottom of the text boxes, there is a small blue box with a privacy notice.

OEF
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About Sign up

OPEN EDUCATORS FACTORY

The OEF platform allows university educators to self-assess their capacity and level of development in terms of Open Education and provides some guidelines to further adopt openness in all dimensions of their activities.

If you are a university educator, just fill a short questionnaire and you will see how you "position" with respect to different openness dimensions. You will also receive immediate feedback with some ideas, suggestions and inspirations that shall improve your work in terms of openness, effectiveness and impact.

If you are a university manager and you want to improve the openness capacity of your teaching staff, get in touch with us so that we can add your institution to the system; then educators from your university will fill the questionnaire and you will be able to see how they "position" with respect to different openness dimensions.

Your data will be used only for the present research. Upon request, data from this research will be shared openly in editable file formats, always preventing the identification of personal sources or persons. Your data can be removed at any time under your request to research@unir.net. We appreciate your contribution to this research.

Email

Password

Login

Forgot your password?

Sign up

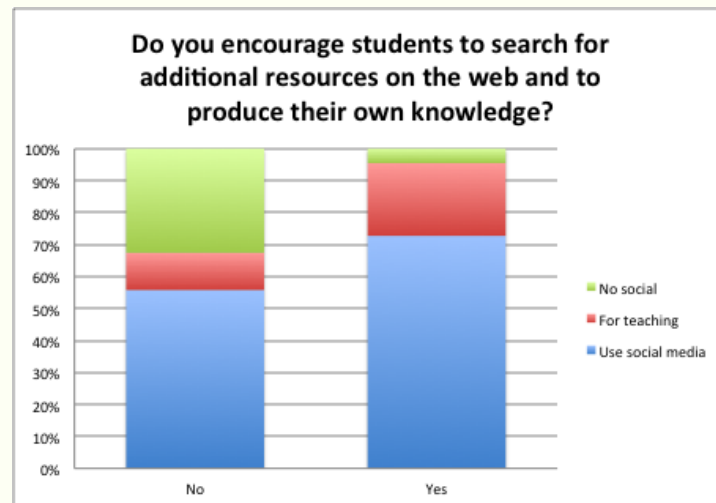
Two main findings

Openness has many “entry points”



JRC, 2016

The relation between Openness and Collaboration is clear



We also learnt that:

1. Each teacher is different
2. Institutional context matters
3. Terminology is important
4. Teachers might tend to “over-rate” their openness

Future of the project

1. **Foster the use** the OEF platform: the more data we get, the more useful the tool will be for the community
2. **Translate** the platform into other languages (RU, CH)
3. **Next research phase** on relation between Openness and Collaboration, investigating the impact of Open Culture (sharing) on teaching practices: *“If you cannot convince teachers to be open, teach them how to network!”*



This is an open research project



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Research/open educators factory

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Project background

The Open Educators Factory (OEF) project stems from the assumption that true progress in terms of openness in higher education (as well as in other educational sectors) requires a major cultural change in the mindset of all stakeholders from public policy makers to institutional leaders, to teachers and researchers, to students and parents. As suggested by Martin Weller in his *The Battle for Open*, this cultural change is gradually happening, but not at the pace that would be needed to make sure that any potential learner can access quality education following his or her preferences in a meaningful way.

OEF believes that the cornerstones for this cultural change to happen are educators. University educators (meant as professors, lecturers and tutors) represent in fact the biggest "resistance" to the Open Education revolution – mainly because they typically fear that their role might be undermined by open approaches and because they do not have a full understanding of the potential of Open Education – and at the same time are the ones that could contribute the most to the adoption of Open Education practices from a genuine bottom up perspective. The idea is that if teachers would drive the Open Education change, even in times when generalised budget cuts are undermining the Higher Education sector development and modernisation, the whole process would be more

http://wikieducator.org/Research/open_educators_factory

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What do we want to discuss

1. What could be done to increase openness fluency of HE educators?
 1. Empower champions?
 2. Motivate newbies?
 3. Build specific capacities?
2. How can OEF contribute to this?
 1. Are we on the right track?
 2. How to engage leaders?
 3. How to engage individual teachers?
3. Any other important issue