Hewlett Grantees Meeting
Cambridge, MA, USA
11 April 2012

FOSTERING GOVERNMENTAL SUPPORT FOR OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INTERNATIONALLY

Stamenka Uvalić-Trumbić & Sir John Daniel Commonwealth of Learning
Background and Rationale

Story so far

World OER Congress
UNESCO HQ Paris
2002 Forum on Impact of OCW
Ten Years Later: we’re still here!

D’Antoni                              Casserly                              Johnstone

Uvalić-Trumbić                           Daniel                               Varoglu
The World Conference on Higher Education
Paris - July 2009: New Dynamics of HE
BUT...

Awareness of OER is still very limited among educational decision-makers.
WCHE session on OERs

Imperative to ensure that all – developed and developing countries - are enabled to contribute to OERs…
UNESCO General Conference

Paris - 2009
Taking OERS beyond the OER Community: Policy & Capacity for Developing Countries

Zeynep Varoglu

Trudi van Wyk
Workshops

- South Africa
- Namibia
- Malaysia
- Mali
- India
- Tanzania
- Mozambique

Plus three online forums
A Basic Guide to Open Educational Resources (OER)

Neil Butcher

Stamenka Uvalić-Trumbić

Asha Kanwar
Fostering Governmental Support for Open Educational Resources Internationally
Three Elements

• Survey of Governments
• Regional Policy Forums
• World OER Congress
Three Elements

• Survey of Governments

close to 100 responses by April 10
Three Elements

- Survey of Governments
- Regional Policy Forums
ICT in Education Leadership Forum in the Caribbean & Caribbean OER Policy Forum

Barbados, January 2012
Latin America Regional Policy Forum
Rio de Janeiro, March 2012
Europe Regional Policy Forum
Cambridge, UK – April 2012
Arab States Regional Policy Forum
Muscat, Oman – May 2012
ICT in Education Leadership Forum in the Caribbean and Regional OER Policy Forum January 2012
“The Cyril Potter College of Education found that by taking existing OER from a variety of sources and adapting them to Guyanese needs they had greatly reduced both the cost and the time required to offer good materials to the teachers.”
“These Caribbean officials were concerned about how to foster regional collaboration, particularly among teachers, and to ensure multidirectional flows of OER in and out of the Caribbean”
17 African Nations reported on their Status of OER
Results of OER Survey Questionnaires (February 2012)

Botswana  Cameroon  Ghana  Kenya  Lesotho  Madagascar  Malawi  Mozambique
Namibia  Niger  Rwanda  Seychelles  South Africa  Swaziland  Tanzania  Zambia
Benefits and obstacles

- **Benefits:** flexible learning opportunities and cost-efficiency
- **Obstacles:** copyright, sustainability, connectivity (even for South Africa)

**BUT**

- **Important for developing countries to be active in knowledge production**
Survey highlights – Africa

Connectivity, culture, language challenges: Mozambique, Niger
10 Latin American Nations reported on their Status of OER

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Survey highlights – Latin America

Government strategies in place:

Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, El Salvador, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay

Government supported Portals promote OER:

Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, El Salvador, Mexico, Uruguay
Survey highlights – Latin America

No policy but would like to have one: *Chile, Guatemala, Paraguay* because:

- Need to promote understanding of importance of OER for whole education eco-system (link to ODL & ICTs)

- OER can shake up the printed textbook industry which is adverse to innovation
Benefits and obstacles

- **Benefits**: flexible learning opportunities, quality and cost-efficiency – also shaking the publishing industry!

- **Obstacles**: copyright, sustainability, connectivity, linguistic and cultural diversity

**BUT**

Same language and similar cultural background can be an asset in Latin America (Chile)
The Paris Declaration

See COL website at:  
http://oercongress.weebly.com/paris-declaration.html

Or the UNESCO site at:  
www.unesco.org/webworld/en/oer
World Congress on
Open Educational Resources
Paris – June 20-22 – 2012

Drafting a Declaration for
the Congress
The Paris Declaration

The International Advisory and Liaison Group will meet in mid-May to approve a draft of the Declaration for submission to Governments at the World OER Congress
THE AIM

“to get greater buy-in from governments to the promotion of OER and of open licences generally.”
BUT...

“limited understanding of the concept of open licensing and how it fits into national legal frameworks”
“A technology has given us a new freedom”
“We have a long way to go before the politicians will listen to these ideas and implement these reforms. But that also means we have time to build awareness around the changes that we need.”

Free Culture Larry Lessig (2004)
IMPACT

We hope that this joint UNESCO – COL project will support you in getting the concept of open availability of materials into the mainstream of education.
THANK YOU

For text and slides:
www.col.org/speeches