

## OE Global 21 - SPARC Europe proposal

### European Academic Libraries at work: let's build capacity. Together.

#### Extended description

The webinar presentation will address the UNESCO OER Recommendation in relation to the first area, "Building capacity of stakeholders to create, access, re-use, adapt and redistribute OER." European Network of Open Education Librarians are interacting with OER as creators and users, while at the same time they are sharing practices with peers while being professionally involved in many other activities. This webinar presentation will not only highlight the resources network members have produced together, but also their capacity-building strategies and the challenges they encounter when building skills and capacity in libraries in High Education. While "Together" is a keyword, sharing ideas and problems and experiences and skills, negotiating along the way on what to do and how, and pooling efforts to solve common goals and challenges, all this is not always easy: collaboration comes with challenges of its own. Not all members are comfortable with taking action at the same time, nor are they all always ready to actively contribute, or confident in formulating their thoughts in English as a second language. These challenges can only be overcome through collaboration and the ENOEL demonstrates this.

#### The process

When planning and designing ENOEL network capacity-building activities, we needed to take the following challenges into account:

- The network is growing and each week we see new members join, which means regular onboarding.
- The ENOEL network includes more established members as well as newcomers to OE; they have different primary languages and different levels of English proficiency; they are in different time zones.
- Network activities come on top of their already very full agendas.

## The activities

The ENOEL has developed a suite of activities to help build capacity in OER and OE in libraries of Higher Education. This initiative, called “Enhancing Open Education support In European Academic Libraries”, is explicitly linked to the UNESCO OER Recommendation.

The Community Manager first presented a set of ideas to ignite the process that stemmed from a range of conversations with members and strategic work over the last 2 years. We then asked network members what they were willing to work on, providing hints on the effort required to help ensure that the work was sustainable. We also asked them what else they were interested in doing. We captured their interests and priorities in an online poll. The following activities are those that our members chose to develop together. They began in spring 2021:

- Interviews with Open Education Champions → librarians interview active OE advocates and practitioners: students, teachers, pedagogues, practitioners, talking about OE: why it is important, what they do to move this forward, what still needs to be done and more
- ENOEL practitioners under the spotlight! → members of the network share their experience as librarians and their specific applied OE expertise whilst enabling others to ask questions and consider replicating their practices
- OE drops → small chunks of knowledge on OE themes, issues, definitions, tips & tricks, etc. designed and recorded by members in a short (2-3 mins) video format
- Thematic Working Groups to
  - design and share advocacy tools about the Unesco OER Recommendation
  - build an Open Education learning path for EU librarians.

The session will also share how we communicate and make progress in these activities.

These activities are part of a new strategy that outlines the direction for the network, built on network priorities and fed into directly by the network before finalisation. Finally, a new edition of the [Open Education in European Libraries of Higher Education Survey 2021](#) was developed with a group of members, and piloted with additional volunteers from the network.

This process shows to what extent we are trying to involve and listen to all network members' voices and to engage them in OE. ENOEL is primarily their network, everything in it should be reflecting them.

Thanks to these activities, ENOEL members are also:

- getting to know each other better while organizing the work required by each task

- exploring each others skills, whilst preparing OER together
- showing their strengths and their weaknesses and welcoming them, while compensating each other
- mentoring each other informally during the preparation of outcomes
- looking at obtaining achievable results with patience and persistence.

All these outcomes, even if intangible compared to the OER produced, are tools network members can reuse in their libraries when interacting with other stakeholders to enhance OE capacity-building on a local level, and within their networks at large.

We look forward to sharing our experiences in more detail during the session together with some of our network members.

During the session, we will present key OE capacity-building network processes and results, and discuss the challenges in achieving these. The takeaways for participants will be both reusable resources to advocate for OE and descriptions of practices they can adapt and then replicate in their own contexts. We will also engage in conversations with participants during the conference week about the resources we will share, using the conference platform session page. After the conference we would invite whoever reuses and adapts ENOEL OER to share with us their own results, with comments, and continue learning from each other. In this way we will better understand how existing communities, networks, and individual participants might find it useful to reuse/adapt our materials, highlighting what would work/what wouldn't in their local/national/international scenarios.