

# Open Education 2030

Call for Vision Papers

## School Education

### Teachers, University Students and an Open Education Platform

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*University students could produce OER under the umbrella of service-learning and an online platform could be created for students and teachers to help them prepare their lessons – OER.*

University students and school teachers could contribute a great deal to OE (Open Education). In this paper I discuss how we could motivate each one of them to produce OER (Open Education Resources). Moreover, a platform will be needed to help motivating the above volunteers, as well as to keep well-organized the information.

University students are an unexploited source of knowledge and they can contribute a great deal to Open Education. Study in Universities would be more interesting if you could apply the theories you are taught. Universities prepare future teachers, mainly theoretically. They do have practice as an obligatory course but what if students were able to put everything in practice producing MOOCs? They could do this for every theory they are taught. This could be a good opportunity for them to connect theory and practice and when every university includes such an innovation in their curricula we could create a huge source of MOOCs and/or other kind of OER. Service – learning offers the theoretical background to implement such a teaching strategy. Critical reflection as an integral part of service – learning would help students to master their knowledge as well as to produce the best possible resources. Service – learning by its definition offers double profit for both the student and the community, in our case the OE community. Lesson plans in the format of a MOOC and other OER would be created and stored in an OE platform, designed for this purpose.

University students have the will but they lack experience and the reverse happens for school teachers. The secret is to give each one a role that can play! School teachers instead of losing time preparing their own lesson plans for their classrooms they could use the ones that students have produced. Of course they could adjust them for their classrooms and this could be a great feedback for the student who produce it! Moreover, in the platform they will have the choice to prepare their own lesson – plans in a MOOC form. If school teachers prepare every afternoon next day's lesson, why not produce it as a MOOC or prepare some OER for it? By using such a platform we could have again double profit. First of all, teachers would produce better quality lesson plans in less time and a database with OER would be created which would be enriched day by day!

One could enumerate many ideas to collect and produce OER, but a crucial point is how to make it sustainable. It all depends on the platform. The Open Education Platform should be intuitive. Teachers should not need to be educated to use it. The platform itself should lead you to learn how to use it. There is no need to develop a brand new method to motivate teachers to contribute in the platform. Video games and social networks have faithful and really motivated users. We could be taught something from these successful ICT accomplishments. The “lesson production” platform could be more than just a platform It could be a social network. A big community of teachers and students who prepare OER, exchange ideas, share their thoughts etc. Design elements and ideas that video games or social



networks apply could be used in order to motivate teachers and students become a part of the network.

Some examples to help you understand the platform better. According to the above idea users could enroll for free but they could have features to unlock and roles to be given in this platform - network. For example there might be a feature to use a recorded message in your MOOC, but this would be unlocked after the teacher uploads the 5<sup>th</sup> MOOC. In that way teachers and students would stay motivated but they would also have the chance to learn the platform step by step. The platform I am thinking of would enhance the interaction, not only between teachers but their students as well. Students should be able to rate and evaluate the lesson plans and this would make teachers even more motivated and make them want to contribute more!

Last but not least and because well begun is half done, we should start from asking organizations who already produce MOOCs and other OER. These organizations could help in two levels. Firstly, they could give valuable feedback about how the platform should be. Secondly, they should be the first to contribute with their MOOCs and their OER.

### **The vision and beyond**

This platform could become a place where teachers will work, university students will practice and school students all over the world will learn! The effort to collect OER has ended up creating a huge database of well – organised evaluated lesson plans.