



Mission Report

2nd World Open Educational Resources Congress 2017 Slovenia

Prepared by:

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A. SEAMEO Officials and Staff Member on Mission

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B. Background, Description and Objectives of the Activity

1. The theme of the 2nd World OER Congress “OER for Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education: from Commitment to Action” which reflects the pivotal role OER can play toward achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and above all Sustainable Development Goal 4 on Quality Education.
2. In preparation for the 2nd World OER Congress, six Regional Consultations and a survey on OER have been organized by the Commonwealth of Learning (COL) in close cooperation with UNESCO and the Government of Slovenia, with the generous support of the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the national authorities in the six host countries: Brazil, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, New Zealand and Qatar.
3. The regional consultations and the survey have raised awareness on the objectives of the 2nd World OER Congress and identified the status of national and regional implementation of the 2012 Paris OER Declaration.

C. Participants

- (1) UNESCO DDG
- (2) UNESCO Officials
- (3) MOE Slovenia
- (4) Member States of UNESCO, Interregional organizations. Partners
- (5) Private organizations and NGOs
- (6) Teachers and students from Slovenia
- (7) MOEs from invited countries

D. Organizer/s

- UNESCO and the Government of Slovenia
- Hewlett Packard Foundation

E. Highlights of the Activity/Summary Points

The World OER is composed Plenary Sessions and parallel sessions: Some highlights are the following:

- The Minister of Education of Slovenia presented her opening and welcome remarks. Dr Maja said that there is a call for action to the global communities and countries to make use and access Open Educational Resources (OERs). She said that Slovenia wishes to make a change in the field of OER and hosted this year's World OER Congress. Slovenia has 5 approaches to OER: 1) policy actions, 2) capacity building, 3) supportive environments, 4) research and development, and 5) services and content. The OER Movement has been supported by the Intergovernmental organizations, The actions recommended for IGOs are the ff: 1) Strengthen regional cooperation on OER, 2) Focus on regional cooperation, 3) support advocacy, policy and capacity building, and 4) create a normative instrument around OER.
- The Plenary session presented the Ljubljana OER Action Plan 2017 which is the outcome document of the 2nd World OER Congress and is based on the outputs of the Regional Consultations, a global online consultation of the document in the months leading up to the Congress and the deliberations of the 2nd World OER Congress. This Action Plan identifies concrete actions to mainstream OER to achieve SDG 4 on Quality Education.
- The Congress also identified the five challenges that hinder OER: 1) capacity of USERS to find, use and reuse or create OERs, 2) language and cultural issues, 3) ensuring inclusive and equitable use of OERs, 4) changing sustainability models, 5) develop supportive policy environments.
- The Action Plan was adopted and has ensured that OER global community provides a strong foundation to collaborate, share knowledge and take action at local, national, regional and international levels. Educational stakeholders should further ensure that a set of indicators, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are in place to support these action areas. Wherever OER is well planned and executed, it can provide vast opportunities to improve learning outcomes, teaching quality and effective knowledge sharing. OER also provides opportunities to strengthen the democratization of knowledge by making learning and teaching materials available to learners and educators at a larger scale while at the same time providing affordable educational options. If pre-conditions for quality education are in place, OER can fulfill its potential to support SDG 4 achievement by countries. The Ljubljana OER Action Plan embodies a collective will to convert OER commitment into concrete actions to help achieve SDG 4 through the key pillars of access, equity and inclusion.
- The session also opened for presentation of OER initiatives funded by UNESCO, including that of SEAMEO Secretariat which was implemented since 2016. (see Annex 1 on SEAMEO Secretariat DDPD presentation in ppt)

F. Follow-up Actions Needed

1. The Ljubljana OER Action Plan 2017 addresses concrete action in five strategic areas to support the mainstreaming of OER around the SDG4 goal of quality, lifelong learning.
2. SEAMEO Secretariat will work continuously with UNESCO and Hewlett Packard in developing OERs. (Programme and Development)

G. Appendices/Related Conference Materials and Outputs

1. The 2nd World OER Congress Ljubljana OER Action Plan 2017
2. Cape town Open Education Declaration
3. Open Educational Resources in France

H. Photos

- a. The Ministers Forum
- b. The Forum for Inter-Governmental Organization
- c. With SEA MOE officials
- d. With Phils and SEAMES delegation

