

High-level pointers for OER policy discussions

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How can we best prepare for a discussion with an OER policy maker or policy influencer? What are the things we need to address when making the case for an OER policy? These very high level pointers may help you prepare for that discussion.

This document resulted from a session at the 2nd OER Policy Forum in Warsaw, 1-2 June 2017.

Preparing for the conversation

- Connect your message with the mission and vision of your stakeholder
- Know priority concerns and needs of the stakeholder you aim to engage with
- Forget the jargon, speak their language, in terms that are familiar to them
- Focus ideally on one key issue you want to change

The conversation

1. Set the scene: describe the status quo and what is wrong with the way things are now or how this could be improved.
Also briefly describe the international movement towards more OER (e.g. show a screenshot of the [OER World Map](#))
2. Describe your solution in a sentence. What is the USP (Unique Selling Point)?
3. Share the international UNESCO or European Commission visions
4. Share your vision: What in an ideal world would things look like? If you are sitting with a real pragmatist, skip this step.
5. List 3 key benefits that relate to your context and stakeholder. These could include widening access to education for all, lowering costs, improving quality and fostering innovation.
6. Share a key statistic and/or info on costs showing the current state of affairs and future state of play
7. Only then describe policy specifics (hard/soft; format, storage, conditions, exceptions, etc.)
8. Describe possible barriers such as cultural, financial, legal, existing policy, facilities, infrastructure and fears of the unknown at inst. & practitioner levels
9. Describe the possible consequences, e.g. facilities necessary to support policy implementation such as Creative Commons or OER leadership training
10. Finally, what action is requested / required of them, and what will you do?

Useful documents for the content

UNESCO's Access to Information

<http://en.unesco.org/themes/access-information>

UNESCO's Open Educational Resources

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/communication-and-information/access-to-knowledge/open-educational-resources/>

European Commission Communication on Rethinking Education:

Rethinking Education: Investing in skills for better socio-economic outcomes

<https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/communication-rethinking-education>

European Commission Policy Recommendations for Opening Up Education

<https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/open-education>

John Daniels, The iron Triangle

<https://oersys.files.wordpress.com/2014/04/iron-triangle.jpg>

Foundations for OER Strategy Development

<http://www.oerstrategy.org/home/read-the-doc/>

Includes helpful discussion of policy ideas, opportunities, and value propositions.

Open Educational Resources Myth-busting

https://mythbusting.oerpolicy.eu/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/OER_Mythbusting.pdf

Open Educational Resources & Higher Education Affordability

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wmUO5PhJ3y-TGZR6KTMlwT_OGC8taEzPY1hjDxiowM/edit

Document SPARC (US) put together for state-level advocacy on OER focusing very much on costs; note that this is very specific to the US situation but inspirational.

OER Mythbusting Guide

The OER Mythbusting Guide provides guidelines on how to dispel the most common myths concerning OER and open education: <http://mythbusting.oerpolicy.eu>

Open Educational Resources in Poland. Conditions and Chances for Development (in Polish and English coming soon)

This is a comprehensive review of the OER policy developments in Poland, and thus constitute a solid case study that can be presented abroad. The report includes recommendations concerning further development of OER policy in Poland, on the basis of the existing open textbooks policy.

A brochure for founders and principals of the school how Open Education can raise quality of the school (in Polish)

http://otevrenevzdelavani.cz/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/OTEVRENE_VZDELAVANI_publikace.pdf

A brochure for creators of OER about Universal Design (in Polish):

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B9vAG5HYoVyrVkhmX3IRbVFIS1E/view>

Open Scotland. Grass Roots - Making the Case and Drafting the Policy, defining the problem and the solution.

<http://openscot.net/about-2/>

The Scottish Open Education Declaration

<http://declaration.openscot.net/>

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