

EUniWell Declaration on Open Education



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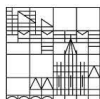
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OF COLOGNE



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
FIRENZE



Universität
Konstanz



Linnæus University



UNIVERSIDAD
DE MURCIA

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Preface

The EUniWell Declaration on Open Education was developed under the leadership of the University of Florence in 2021.

The declaration was submitted to the European Commission as a deliverable of the pilot phase of the Erasmus+ project on 30 April 2021 and signed by all EUniWell founding members in October 2022.

In addition to the founding members, all new members of the EUniWell Alliance have signed the Declaration on Open Education.

EUniWell Declaration on Open Education

1. We, the University of Birmingham (United Kingdom), Università degli studi di Firenze (Italy), Universität zu Köln (Germany), Universiteit Leiden (the Netherlands), Linnéuniversitetet (Sweden), Nantes Université (France), Semmelweis University (Hungary), all members of the EUniWell consortium, adhere to the principles of the Cape Town Open Education Declaration.
2. The Cape Town Declaration, written in 2007, covers all aspects of Open Education. These ideas have further been improved in Europe's framework on Open Education and, in 2019, in the UNESCO Recommendation on Open Educational Resources, going from ideas to implementation. Moreover, we share the analysis that the pandemic of 2020-2021 has led education into new directions in which more than ever cooperation and openness have become the pillars. We adhere to these ideas and in particular we stress that:
 - i. Open Educational Resources (OER) represent a crucial pathway to share learning material between teachers and institutions.
 - ii. Other Open Educational Practices (OEP) have the potential to make education more inclusive and collaborative.
 - iii. Open Education enables our institutions both to advance education in the 21st century and to contribute to the goals put forward by the United Nations and UNESCO towards the achievement of the UN 2030 Agenda.
 - iv. Publicly-funded research ought to serve society, it cannot be "closed source". Results and data should be made available as widely as possible to penetrate society, economy and

politics. Beyond the development of infrastructure which enables the sharing of data and results, the culture of Open Science also depends on the capacity for researchers to communicate their research results broadly, beyond their peers, to a non-specialist public. The responsibility of EUniWell extends to issues regarding how we do science and how we share its results. Building upon the Mission Statement of the EUniWell partners (https://www.euniwell.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/Downloads/EUniWell-Mission-Statement-for-Download.pdf), we believe that these goals can apply equally to the question of Open Education.

3. We adhere to the principles of the Cape Town Open Education Declaration, the European Framework on Open Education and the Unesco Recommendation on Open Educational Resources as well as the EUniWell Mission Statement and make it our intention to promote these principles by encouraging and supporting our staff in using and developing open educational practices, by making the produced open educational resources visible at international level and in particular by providing a common repository of OER built by our institutions. This corresponds to a number of operations to which the partners of EUniWell are already individually committed, as detailed in the Appendix, where the definitions are clarified and the challenge of integrating the different commitments into a complex network and shared platforms is highlighted.
4. As Universities with a mission and interest both in Research and Education, we will aim to consider jointly the questions of Open Science and Open Education through promoting research on these topics and, more than ever, allowing and favouring a continuum between research and education.
5. We therefore strongly recommend that the EUniWell partners sign the Cape Town Declaration and provide a roadmap for integrating all of the above in our mission.

The EUniWell Declaration on Open Education has been signed by representatives from the following member universities of the EUniWell Alliance:

University of Birmingham

Universität zu Köln

Università degli studi di Firenze

Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales

Universität Konstanz
Linnéuniversitetet
Universidad de Murcia
Nantes Université
Universidade de Santiago de Compostela
Semmelweis Egyetem
Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv

Appendix

Definitions

Open Education is widely accepted as “creating a world where each and every person on earth can access and contribute to the sum of all human knowledge [...] planting the seeds of a new pedagogy where educators and learners create, shape and evolve knowledge together, deepening their skills and understanding as they go”ⁱ.

As for **Open Science**, a key component of Open Education is the free circulation of knowledge. The mechanisms to do this, in Open Science, come under **Open Access**. In the case of Open Education, **Open Educational Resources** (OER) are “teaching, learning and research materials in any medium – digital or otherwise – that reside in the public domain or have been released under an open license that permits no-cost access, use, adaptation and redistribution by others with no or limited restrictions”ⁱⁱ.

Of course, there are many other ways to deploy Open Education. These are usually known as **Open Educational Practices** (OEP), which can be defined as “the use of Open Educational Resources for teaching and learning in order to innovate the learning process”ⁱⁱⁱ.

ⁱ <https://www.capetowndeclaration.org/>

ⁱⁱ <https://en.unesco.org/themes/building-knowledge-societies/oer>

ⁱⁱⁱ Ehlers, U.D. (2011). "[Extending the Territory: From Open Educational Resources to Open Educational Practices](#)". Journal of Open, Flexible and Distance Learning.

References

- The Cape Town Open Education Declaration:
<https://www.capetowndeclaration.org/>
- The Unesco Recommendation on Open Educational Resources:
<https://en.unesco.org/themes/building-knowledge-societies/oer/recommendation>
- Europe's Framework on Open Education:
<https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/open-education>
- FOSTER Portal (Foster Plus Project):
<https://www.fosteropenscience.eu/>
- Open education Global Strategy:
<https://www.oeglobal.org/open-education-global-strategic-plan/>
- MIT Open Learning experience:
<https://openlearning.mit.edu/about-us>