Opening up Education in South Mediterranean Countries

OpenMed "Opening-up education in South Mediterranean countries" explores the adoption of strategies and channels that embrace the principles of openness and reusability within the context of Arab-Mediterranean universities. OpenMed is an international cooperation project co-funded by the Erasmus+ Capacity Building in Higher Education programme of the European Union during the period 15 October 2015 – 14 October 2018.

Mission Statement

The overarching goal of OpenMed is to raise awareness and facilitate the adoption of **Open Educational Resources (OER)** and **Open Educational Practices (OEP)** in the Arab Mediterranean countries, with a particular focus on Higher Education in **Egypt**, **Jordan**, **Morocco** and **Palestine**.

OpenMed fosters the role of universities as knowledge providers not only to their on-campus students but also beyond the walls of institutions, especially towards disadvantaged groups (e.g. low income peoples, disabled students, people living in rural areas, learners at risk of low achievement, and refugees).

Why OpenMed

Openness in Higher Education (HE) seems a common sense approach for enabling equal and democratic access to knowledge. If universities really want to find more resources to invest in better teaching and research, it is essential that the open sharing of resources is encouraged. Knowledge must be shared and spread, teachers encouraged to network and collaborate on course development, and institutions discouraged from fragmentation and silo mentality.

Using OERs teachers and students can together collaborate on compiling course material and resources, opening up the classrooms to new forms of learning. The learning experience will be greatly enhanced due to greater involvement.

Before this can be realised, we need a change in attitudes towards what we mean by education, teaching and learning. We need new attitudes towards collaboration and new literacy.

Objectives

- Raise awareness and **widen HEI participation** in open educational practices and resources;
- Define the **OER Agenda** for the re-use of OER at HE institutional level;
- Define **mid-term strategic roadmaps** for the implementation of the OER Agenda at local-institutional level according to the local, cultural and institutional needs and strategies;
- **Instruct university teachers** about how to use and repurpose OER in a pedagogically-rich context and improve their digital competences;
- **Pilot start-up open educational practices** and offer students flexible and up-to-date open contents and learning paths, with a linkage to the international community and the needs of the job market.

Expected results

- Compendium of EU-MED Open Education practices
- Agenda of Open Education for university course development
- Institutional roadmap(s) of open educational practices, as an adaptation of the Agenda to the local, cultural and institutional framework
- Network of Innovation Centres for Open Education activated in PC HEIs
- 70 Faculty staff members trained to the concepts of OE
- Recommendations for policy makers, managers of universities, teachers and educators willing to adopt the OpenMed methodology and implement open practices in their institutions

Members of the Consortium

- UNIMED, Mediterranean Universities Union, Italy (coordinator)
- POLITO, Politecnico di Torino, Italy
- UNIR, Universidad Internacional de La Rioja, Spain
- US, University of Seville, Spain
- DMLL, Coventry University, UK
- CU, Cairo University, Egypt
- AU, Alexandria University, Egypt
- UCA, Cadi Ayyad University, Morocco
- UIZ, Université Ibn Zohr, Morocco
- BZU, Birzeit University, Palestine
- ANNU, An-Najah National University, Palestine
- AArU, Association of Arab Universities, Jordan
- GJU, German Jordanian University, Jordan
- PSUT, Princess Sumaya University for Technology, Jordan
- EDEN, European Distance and E-Learning Network, UK (associated partner)

Website

www.OpenMedproject.eu

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