Open eLearning Content Observatory Services

OLCOS
Open eLearning Content Observatory Services

Open Classroom Conference
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Co-funded by the
European Commission
eLearning

Project information

Open eLearning Content Observatory Services

OLCOS is a Transversal Action co-funded by the European Commission under the *e*Learning Programme.

Function:

A (virtual) observatory and information service

Focus:

Promoting the production, sharing and re-use of Open Educational Resources (OER) with special respect to open (e-) learning practices

Duration:

January 2006 – December 2007

Project partners:

- European Centre for Media Competence, Germany
- European Distance and E-Learning Network, Hungary
- FernUniversitaet in Hagen, Germany
- Mediamaisteri Group, Finland
- Open University of Catalonia, Spain
- Salzburg Research Ltd., Austria = project co-ordinator

Project information

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The main objectives of the projects are:

- to provide organisational and individual e-learning end-users in Europe with orientation, perspective, and useful recommendations (Roadmap),
- to provide the end-users with easy, but intelligent access to practical information and support services in the creation, sharing, and re-use of open e-learning content (Tutorials, Collections, Workshops),
- to establish a larger group of committed experts throughout Europe who not only share their expertise with the project consortium, but also steer networking and clustering efforts and
- to foster and support a community of practice in open e-learning content know-how and experiences.

www.olcos.org

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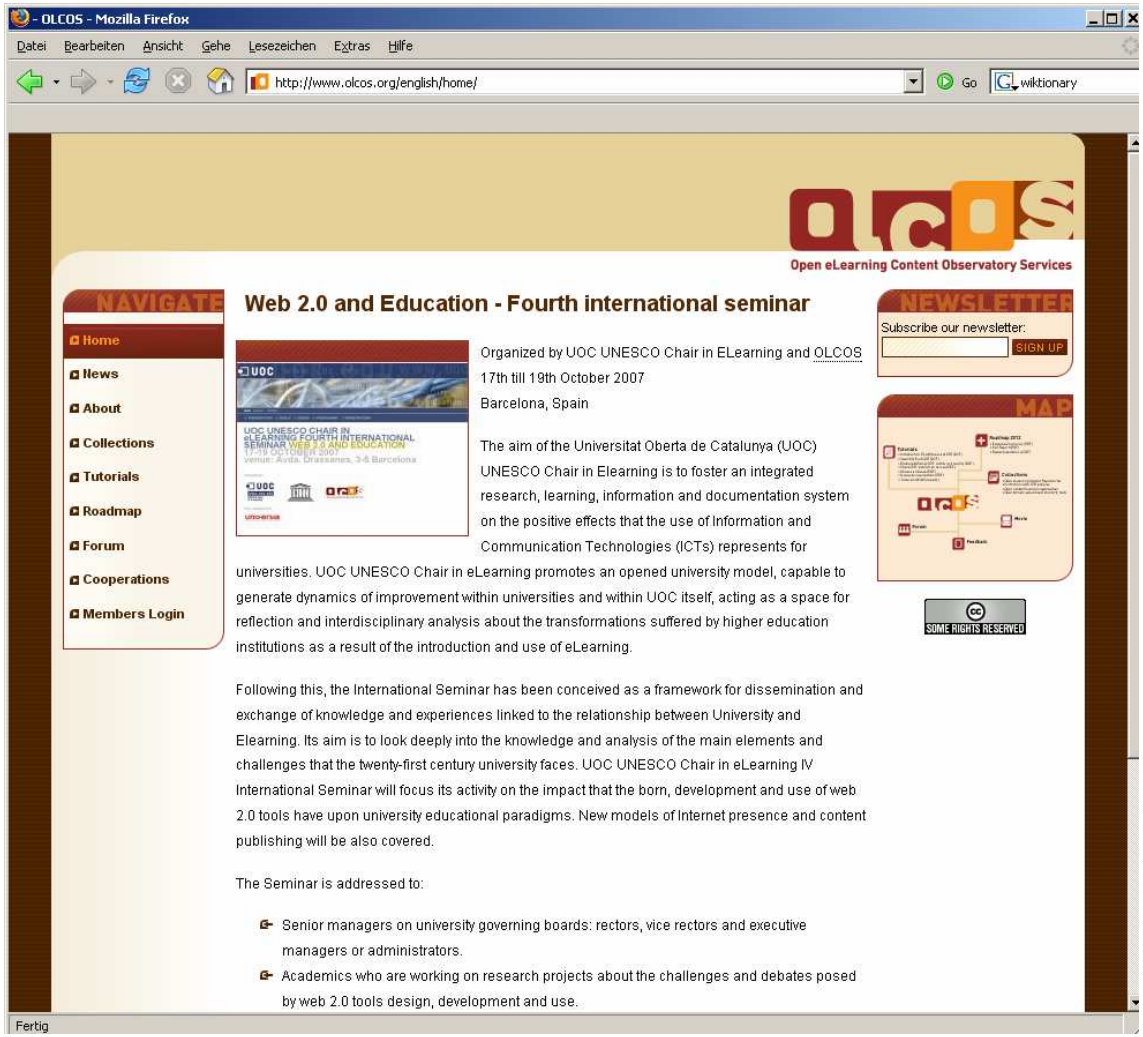

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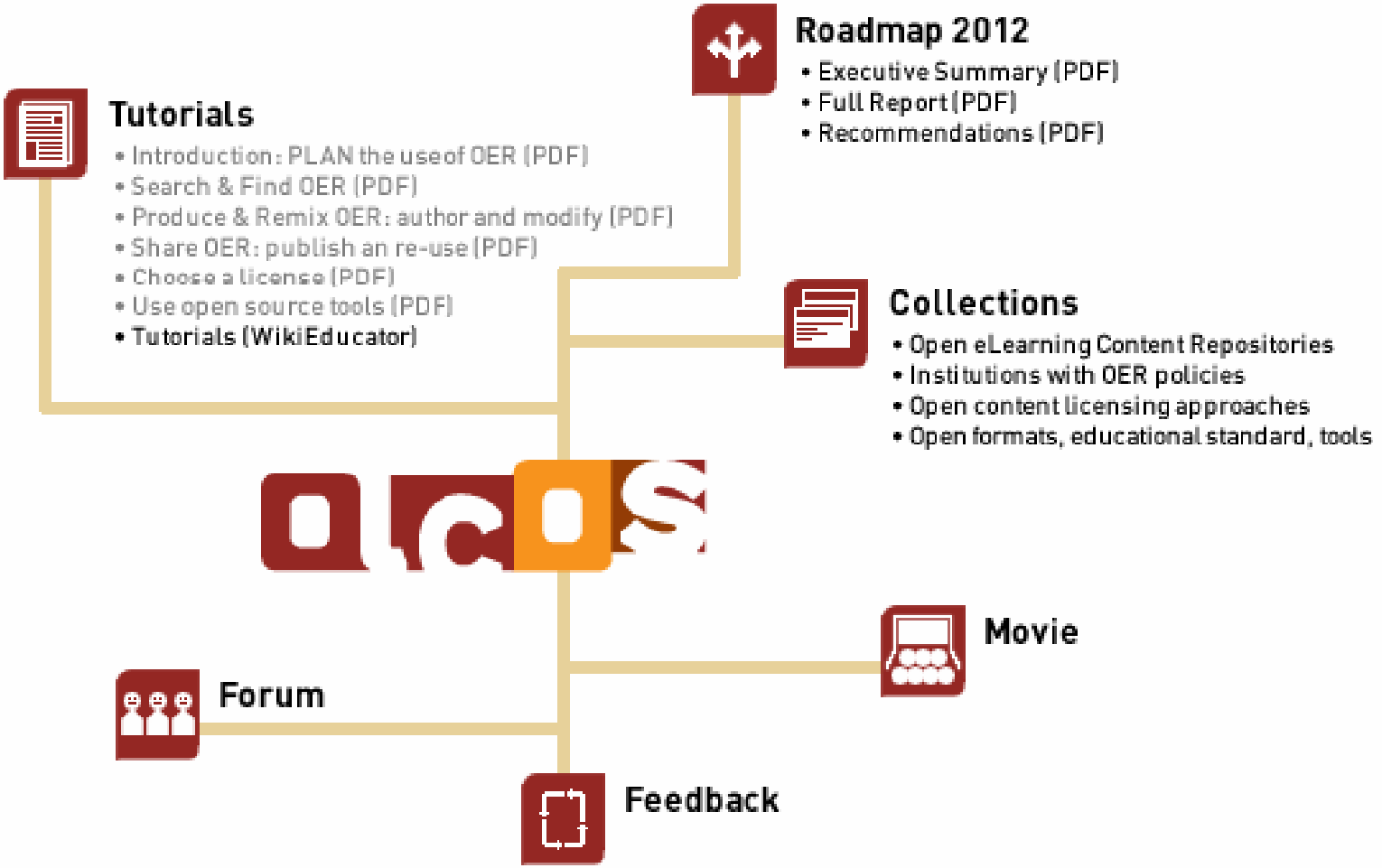

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Open Educational Practices and Resources – OLCOS Roadmap 2012

This study explores the possible pathways towards a higher level of production, sharing and usage of OER and was conducted to provide decision makers with an overview of current and likely future developments in OER and recommendations on how various challenges in OER could be addressed.

The report covers the following areas:

- Policies, institutional frameworks and business models;
- Open Access and open content repositories;
- Laboratories of open educational practices and resources.

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Open Educational Practices and Resources – OLCOS Roadmap 2012

The report also provides a set of recommendations for:

- Educational policy makers and funding bodies;
- Boards, directors and supervisors of educational institutions;
- Teachers;
- Students;
- Educational repositories;
- Developers and implementers of e-learning tools and environments.

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How to get the OLCOS Roadmap 2012:

(1) Printed copies can be ordered by an online form.
(2) The Report can be downloaded.

Both is possible at:
www.olcos.org/english/roadmap/

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Tutorials

A set of five online tutorials providing information and guidance on how to practically work with Open Educational Resources is offered in the following issues:

(1) Search and find OER
(2) Produce and remix: author and modify OER
(3) Share OER: publish and re-use
(4) Choose a license
(5) Use open source tools

Exemplary scenarios are described in the tutorials, commented for train-the-trainers. Among others, the following questions are answered:

- Which are the possibilities of searching for OER?
- Which repositories exist and can be recommended?
- Which materials may be used and modified?
- What are open formats and how can they be used?
- In which way can OER be published ensuring an easy use?

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Tutorials

The Tutorials deal with different scenarios and perspectives and give information, practical tasks and recommendations for further information.

The Tutorials are available in English, German and Spanish language.

The Tutorials will be alive even beyond the end of the OLCOS project, because they are published in the WikiEducator, which everybody can update at

http://wikieducator.org/Open_Educational_Content

Collections

Additionally, the project website offers a best-practice collection of OER repositories (e. g. standalone, subject portals or courses) and lists exemplary institutions, which create and use OER, and license models for OER.

Collections are available in English, German and Spanish language.

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Workshops

Several awareness-raising workshops took place in the European eLearning community, designed to foster the take-up of the concept of Open Educational Digital Content, and to explore how to develop the required infrastructures, legally sound practices, educational policies and organisational strategies.

Forum

Experts and practitioners discuss OER in an online forum at
http://www.olcos.org/fud/

The current discussion deals with the question “How can learners and teachers be activated to search for OER?”

Movie

A short awareness video to foster the use of OER is planned.

The current Link within the knowledge map leads to the videos of the Creative Commons Website.

Conclusions

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OER are understood to be important facilitators of educational innovation, but OER per se is not able to bring about the required transformation in educational practices.

A decisive shift towards open educational practices must take place before educational institutions, teachers and learners will benefit fully from freely and easily accessible and re-usable resources.

An educational culture and mindset must be promoted that builds on sharing of resources for, and experiences from, open educational practices.

This would be part of a new understanding of teachers' professional work that includes a permanent questioning, evaluation and improvement of educational practices and resources.

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Thank you for your attention!

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