

# Open Educational Resources as Facilitators of Open Educational Practices: Results and Recommendations of the EU-Project "OLCOS" (Open eLearning Content Observatory Services)

Fourth UNICA Scholarly Communication Seminar 2008, 15<sup>th</sup> May 2008

Dr. Sandra Schaffert  
Salzburg Research Forschungsgesellschaft m.b.H.  
Application Area "Education and Media"



## Agenda

- | What are Open Educational Resources (OER)?
- | Examples and initiatives of OER
- | Milestones
- | Expected benefits of OER
- | The EU-Project "OLCOS"
  - | ... idea
  - | ... results & products
- | Short Outlook



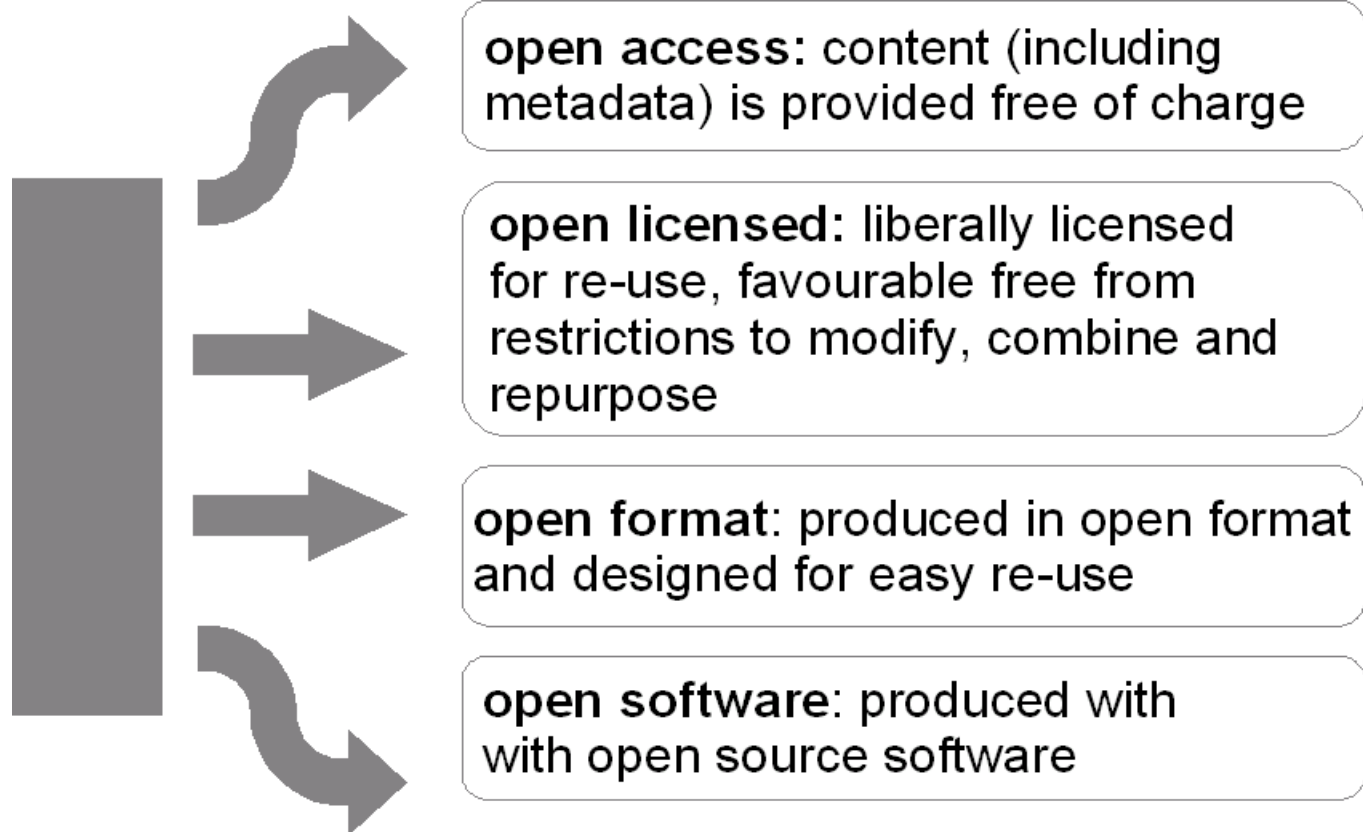
# What are Open Educational Resources?

## OER – Definition (UNESCO-IIEP Forum 2002)

- | Open Educational Resources include
  - | Open learning content: full courses, single course materials, collections and online journals etc.
  - | Open source content development tools, learning management systems and tools for support of online-learning communities
  - | Implementation resources: open standards and licensing systems.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open\\_educational\\_resources](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open_educational_resources)

## “open” means...



[Schaffert & Geser 2008, following Geser 2007, OLCOS Roadmap, p.20].

## Examples and initiatives of OER

## Who offers OER? Categories of repositories





# MIT OPEN COURSEWARE

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

We invite you to [view all the MIT courses](#) available at this time.

## Search

» [Advanced Search](#)

### AVAILABLE COURSES

Find individual course listings on the following MIT OCW Department pages, or [view a complete course list](#).

- » [Aeronautics and Astronautics](#)
- » [Anthropology](#)
- » [Architecture](#)
- » [Athletics, Physical Education and Recreation](#)
- » [Biological Engineering](#)
- » [Biology](#)
- » [Brain and Cognitive Sciences](#)
- » [Chemical Engineering](#)

## Welcome to MIT's OpenCourseWare:

a free and open educational resource (OER) for educators, students, and self-learners around the world.

MIT OCW:

- Is a publication of MIT course materials
- Does not require any registration
- Is not a degree-granting or certificate-granting activity
- Does not provide access to MIT faculty

Learn more [about MIT OCW...](#)

### Partners in Sharing

MIT OpenCourseWare is grateful for the support of Ab Initio Software Corporation.



Ab Initio and OpenCourseWare:  
Built on fundamentals



**"We try to understand how the MIT courses are formulated, and what the expected outcomes are.** This gives us an important perspective on the learning process... But it's not simply the information that's valuable, but also the glimpse it offers into how MIT structures its teaching and research."  
— Triatno Harjoko, Professor of Architecture at the University of Depok in Indonesia  
[Read more World Reaction...](#)

» COURSES » ABOUT OCW » HELP » FEEDBACK





- article
- discussion
- edit
- history
- move
- watch

Please join the **WikiEducator mailing list** to coordinate the development of WikiEducator content, structure, and technology.

We're turning the digital *divide* into digital *dividends* using **free content** and **open networks**. We hope you can help us.

## Welcome to WikiEducator

Browse:

About | Using WikiEducator | FAQs

Content Projects Research Networks

### navigation

- Main Page
- Recent changes
- Content
- Projects
- Practice editing
- Help

### community

- Community portal
- Web chat
- Mailing list
- Donations

### search




### toolbox

- What links here
- Related changes
- Upload file
- Special pages

### The purpose of WikiEducator

The WikiEducator is an evolving community intended for the collaborative:

- planning** of education projects linked with the development of **free content**;
- development** of free content on **Wikieducator** for e-learning;
- work on building **open education resources** (OERs) on **how** to create OERs.
- networking on **funding proposals** developed as free content.

### Our community values...

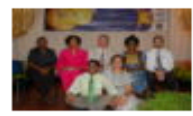
### In the news



The Open Knowledge Foundation, Free Culture and WikiEducator are building an international network promoting the development of **Free Textbooks**. Join the **Free Textbooks mailing list** and keep up with developments on the **Open Text Book blog**.



**Steve Foerster reports** on his visit to the **iCommons Summit** in Dubrovnik, Croatia. June 2007.



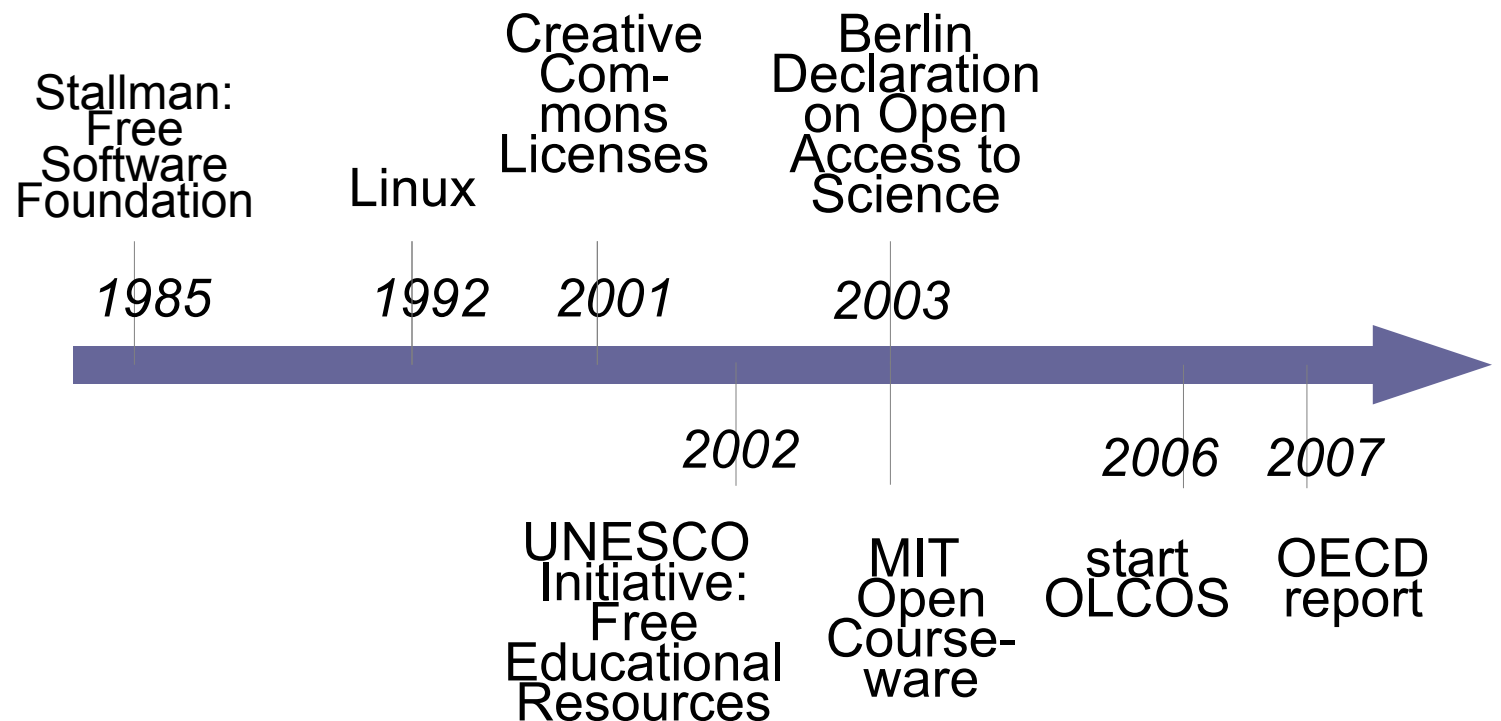
The third **VUSSC boot camp** commenced on 4 June 2007 in Trinidad & Tobago. This one is focusing of **Life Skills**.

# Example: Wikieducator



# Milestones

## OPEN SOFTWARE/ CONTENT



## OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

## Expected benefits of OER

## Expected benefits of OER

- | Viewpoint of educational networks and institutions, e.g.
  - | Higher return on investment of taxpayers' money
  - | Enrich the pool of resources
  - | Lead to a leverage in the educational quality of content through quality control, feedback and improvements
- | Viewpoint of teachers and learners, e.g.
  - | Offer a broader range of subjects and topics
  - | Save time and effort through re-using
  - | Provide learning communities
  - | Promote user-centred approaches
- | Source: Geser (2007): OLCOS Roadmap 2012, <http://www.olcos.org>

## The EU-Project "OLCOS"



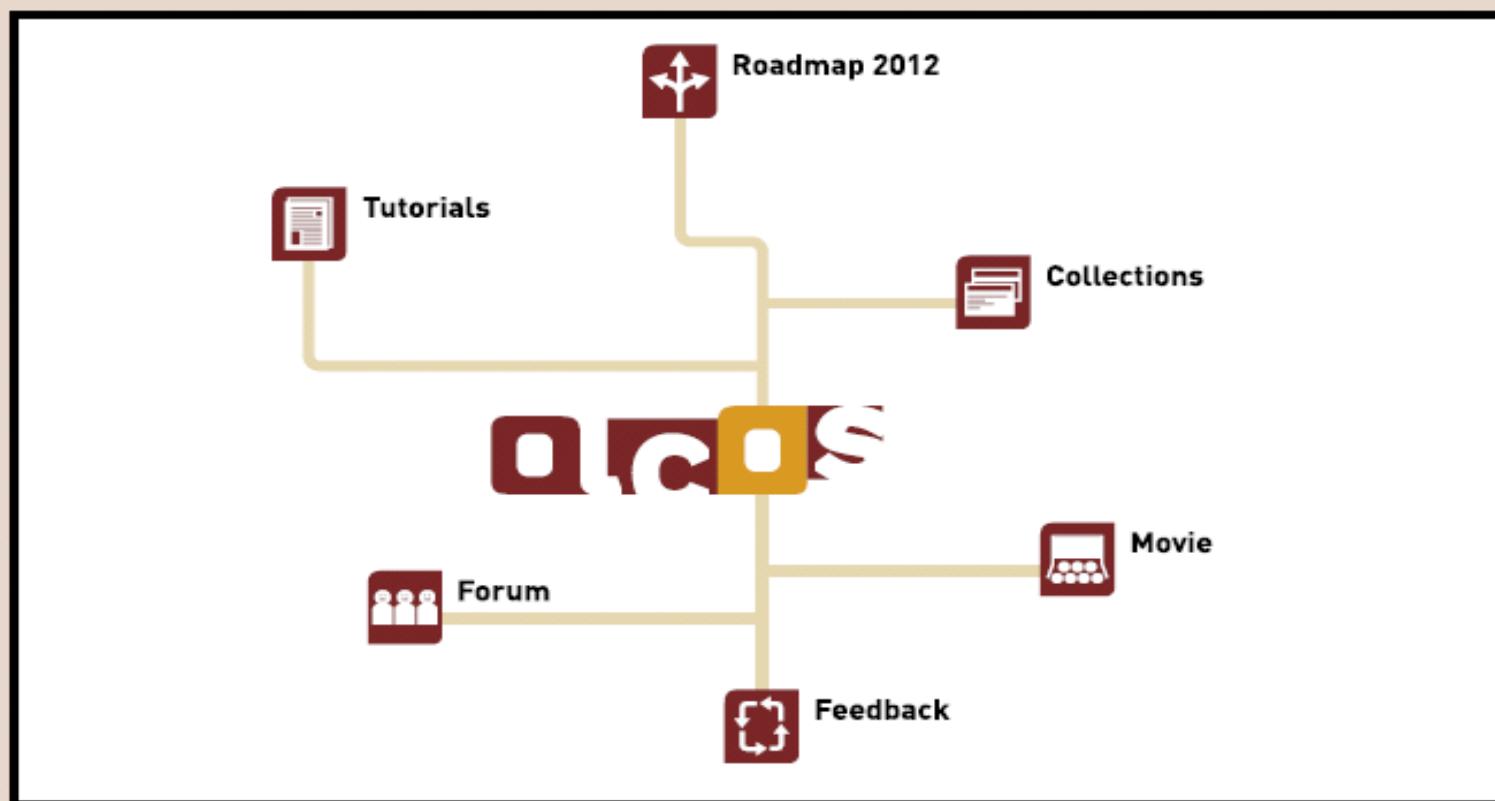
Open eLearning Content Observatory Services

**[www.olcos.org](http://www.olcos.org)**

## The EU-Project "OLCOS"... idea

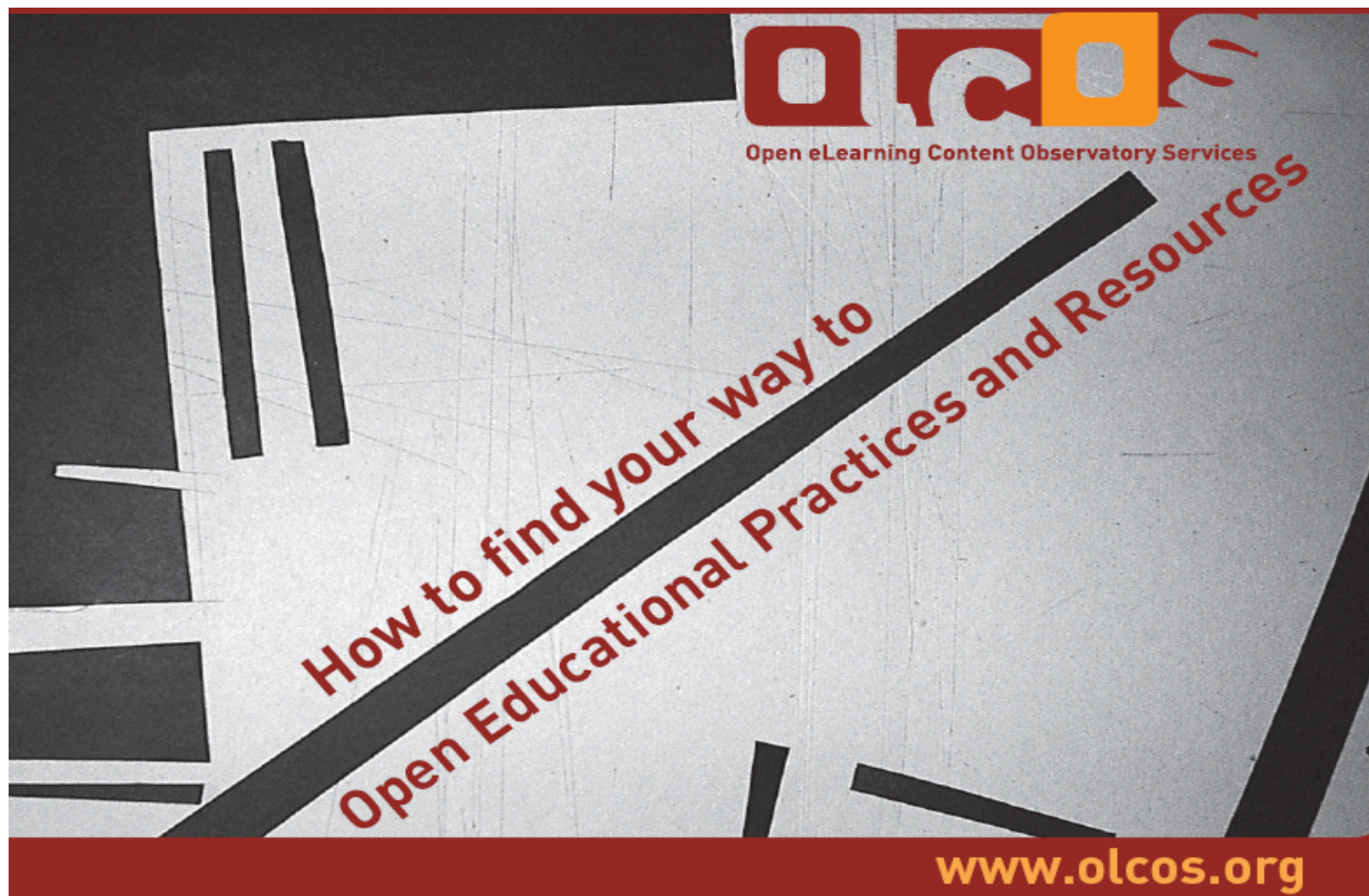
- | OLCOS is a Transversal Action under the European eLearning Programme (January 2006 – December 2007)
- | Main goal: To promote the production, sharing and re-use of Open Educational Resources (OER) in Europe and beyond
- | Six partners, co-ordinator: Salzburg Research, EduMedia Group
  - European Centre for Media Competence, Germany
  - European Distance and E-Learning Network, Hungary
  - FernUniversitaet in Hagen, Germany
  - Mediamasteri Group, Finland
  - Open University of Catalonia, Spain
  - Salzburg Research, Austria (co-ordinator)

## The EU-Project "OLCOS"... results





## OLCOS ... online tutorials



## OLCOS tutorials

### | How to

- | plan educational scenarios with the use of OER?
- | search and find OER?
- | produce and remix OER (author and modify)?
- | share, publish and re-use OER?
- | choose a license?
- | use open source tools ?

### | Where to find OER material? Exemplary collections of

- | Open e-learning content repositories
- | Institutions with OER policy
- | Open Content licensing approaches
- | Open formats, educational standard and tools for producing open educational content

## OLCOS tutorials ...

- | addresses OER beginners
- | links OER content & tools
- | wiki based produced
- | content adaptable to your needs
- | wiki pages can be inserted into any web-portal
- | up-to-date
- | [http://www.wikieducator.org/Open\\_Educational\\_Content](http://www.wikieducator.org/Open_Educational_Content)




## OLCOS tutorials ...

[article](#)
[discussion](#)
[edit](#)
[history](#)
[move](#)
[watch](#)

## Open Educational Content

This site in different languages: [German](#) [Spanish](#)




navigation

- [Main Page](#)
- [Community portal](#)
- [Current events](#)
- [Recent changes](#)
- [Random page](#)
- [Help](#)
- [Donations](#)
- [Web chat](#)

search

toolbox

- [What links here](#)
- [Related changes](#)
- [Upload file](#)
- [Special pages](#)
- [Printable version](#)
- [Permanent link](#)
- [Print as PDF](#)



### Open Educational Content - Introduction and Tutorials

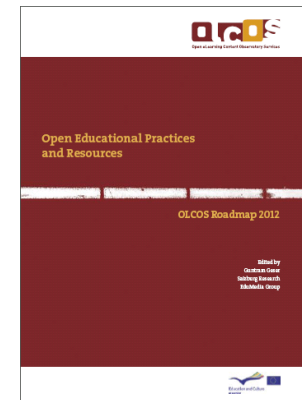
A collaborative development with [the OLCOS project consortium](#) and everybody, who wants to contribute!

*The objective of this online-book is to support students and teachers in the creation, re-use and sharing of e-learning material. Management staff will find information about how to implement open learning policies and activities in their institution.*

- Introduction: PLAN the use of OER
- Tutorial: SEARCH & FIND OER
- Tutorial: PRODUCE & REMIX OER: author and modify
- Tutorial: SHARE OER: publish and re-use
- Tutorial: CHOOSE a license
- Tutorial: USE open source tools
- ORGANIZE: Collections
  - [Exemplary Collection of Open eLearning Content Repositories](#)
  - [Exemplary Collection of institutions with OER policy](#)
  - [Exemplary Collection of open content licensing approaches](#)
  - [Exemplary Collection of open formats, educational standard and tools for producing open educational content](#)

## OLCOS ... the roadmap

- | road mapping time-horizon set for 2012 (+),
- | identifies drivers/enablers and inhibitors of open educational practices and resources,
- | provides a set of recommendations (25) for decision makers – from political and institutional level to individual teachers and students!
- | the roadmap (~150 pages) is available for download at <http://www.olcos.org/english/roadmap/>



## OLCOS roadmap ... some findings

- | Massive investment in ICT over the last 10 years, but little change in educational practices
  - | Teacher-centred “knowledge-transfer” model still dominates
  - | Expectations to bring about student-centred and collaborative learning approaches have not been fulfilled
- | Business models in open educational resources are tricky
  - | The right mix of income streams must be found – public or/and private funding, sponsorships, donations, fee based services...
  - | There will be a growing competition on funding resources
- | Healthy competition among leading institutions in providing free access to educational resources
- | International interest in, and funding of, open educational resources

## OLCOS roadmap ... some findings III

- | At present most available open educational content is static teaching and learning material (“course ware”) in closed formats
- | Institutional barriers to develop open content repositories
  - | Lack of incentives & reward mechanisms for academic and other teachers
  - | to excel in producing and openly sharing of high-value teaching material
  - | Often lack of clear-cut regulations regarding IPR/copyrights for material that could be made available
  - | Often content incorporates some material from third parties under the assumption of copyright exceptions or “fair use” (copyright clearance is costly!)



## OLCOS Brief Assessment

- | Current focus of initiatives is on providing access to resources, but it is important to also promote educational innovation and change
- | Delivering OER to the still dominant model of teacher-centred knowledge-transfer will have little innovative impact
- | Priority should be on promoting open educational practices and focus on developing competences and skills for the knowledge society – students and teachers



## Recommendations for educational repositories

- | Do not follow a top-down strategy of delivering learning objects; empower teachers and learners
- | Support individual content creators and communities of practice with useful tools and services
- | Make licensing of content as easy as possible
- | Allow for easy discovery of and access to resources
- | Assist open content initiatives in the creation of rich metadata and provide semantically enhanced access to resources

## The EU-Project "OLCOS"



Open eLearning Content Observatory Services

[www.olcos.org](http://www.olcos.org)

## Challenges of Open Educational Resources



## Short outlook

- | Promoting the concept of OER and open educational practices are important
- | Research: e.g. monitoring progress in open educational practices and resources
- | Call for papers: eLearning Papers about Open Educational Resources (deadline 30<sup>th</sup> June 2008)

## Contact

### **Dr. Sandra Schaffert**

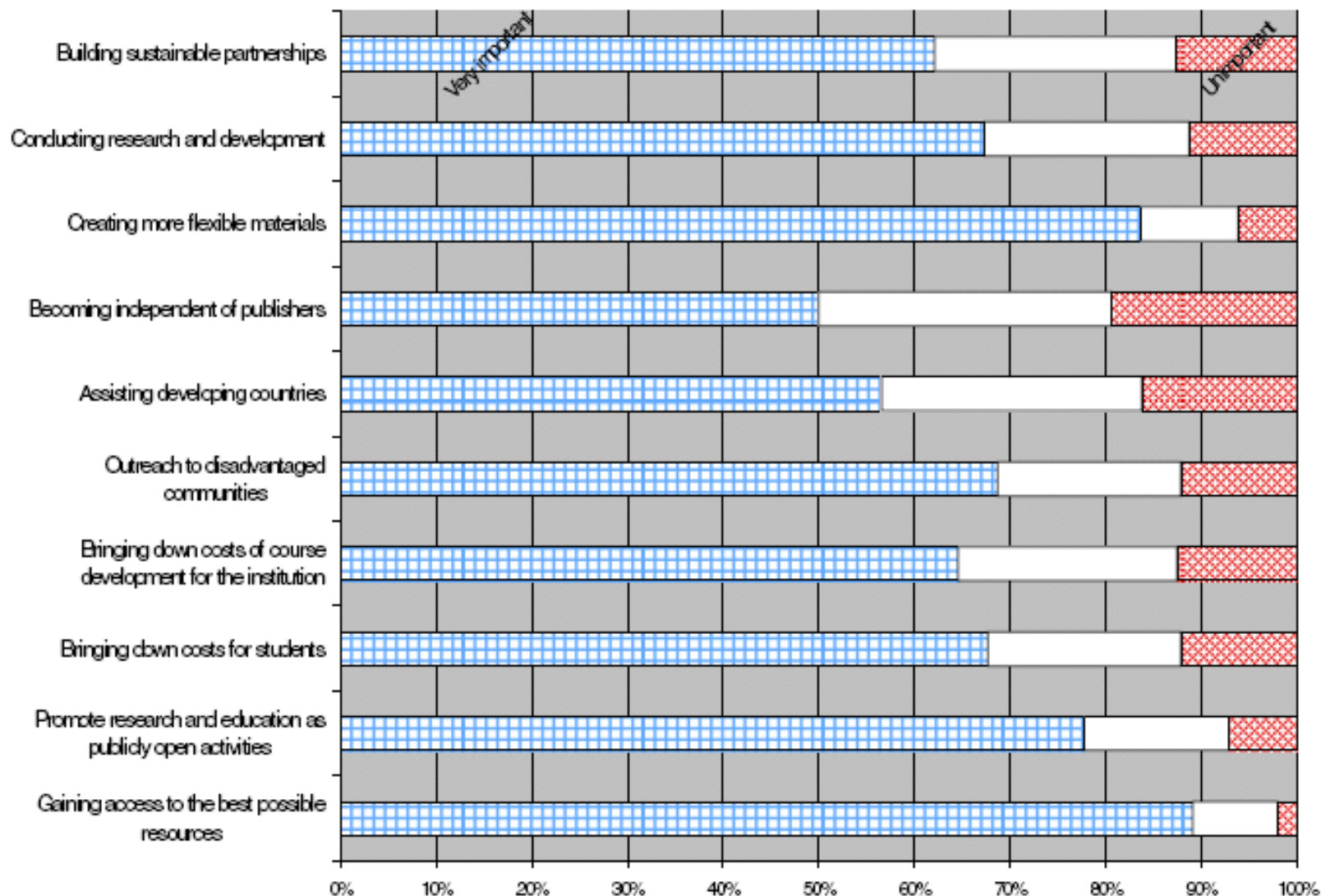
Salzburg Research Forschungsgesellschaft m.b.H.  
Jakob-Haringer-Str. 5/III  
A-5020 Salzburg  
Phone: +43-662-2288-429  
Fax: +43-662-2288-222  
[sandra.schaffert@salzburgresearch.at](mailto:sandra.schaffert@salzburgresearch.at)  
<http://www.salzburgresearch.at>

## References

- Geser, Guntram (2007). Open Educational Practices and Resources - OLCOS Roadmap 2012.  
URL: [http://www.olcos.org/cms/upload/docs/olcos\\_roadmap.pdf](http://www.olcos.org/cms/upload/docs/olcos_roadmap.pdf)
- OECD (2007): Giving Knowledge for Free. The Emergence of Open Educational Resources. Paris.  
URL: <http://213.253.134.43/oecd/pdfs/browseit/9607041E.PDF>
- Schaffert, Sandra & Geser, Guntram (2008). Open Educational Resources and Practices. In: elearningpapers, 7, Februar 2008.  
URL:  
[http://www.elearningpapers.eu/index.php?page=doc&doc\\_id=11198](http://www.elearningpapers.eu/index.php?page=doc&doc_id=11198)



# Why teachers use OER...



Source: OECD 2007, 52; N=193 from 49 countries