The EdReNe Network

Repositories bridge the gap between resource providers and users

EdReNe is a thematic network
Founded with co-funding from the European Union
Repositories of learning resources

• Repositories address the missing knowledge of
  
  • users about opportunities and resources
    (“where are the learning resources”)
  
  • content providers
    (“where are the users”)
Repositories of learning resources

- Repositories are key disseminators of information of available learning resources
- In repositories users search or browse for relevant resources (text books, websites, digital learning resources etc.) among the vast supply on the market

Producers: Register, update, upload, search, read statistics on usage

Teachers, librarians, students etc.: Search, browse, download, upload, feed-back
EdReNe – Educational Repositories Network

- EdReNe brings together members from
  - web-based repositories of learning resources with
  - content owners and
  - other stakeholders within education

- The members share, develop and document strategies, experiences, practices, solutions, advice, procedures etc. on the organisation, structuring and functionality of repositories.
EdReNe – a thematic network of central actors

- AIE - Associazione Italiana Editori (Italy)
- ALLIANZ S.p.A. (Italy)
- ANSAS - Agenzia Nazionale per lo Sviluppo dell'Autonomia Scolastica (former INDIRE) (Italy)
- APS IT-diensten (The Netherlands)
- Atit (Belgium)
- BFU- Brancheforeningen for undervisningsmidler (Denmark)
- CNDP - Centre National de Documentation Pédagogique (France)
- CTE - Centre de technologie de l’éducation (Luxembourg)
- CTIE - Centre suisse des technologies de l’information dans l’enseignement (Switzerland)
- DGIDC - Ministry of Education (Portugal)
- EDEN - European Distance and E-Learning Network (Europe)
- Education Group (Austria)
- Education Scotland (UK)
- EENET - European Expert’s Network for Education and Technology (Europe)
- Encyclopaedia Britannica Education (UK)
- ENIS Austria (Austria)
- EUN – European Schoolnet (Europe)
- eXact learning solutions (Italy)
- FWU - Institut für Film und Bild in Wissenschaft und Unterricht (Germany)
- i.zone (Portugal)
- IML - Umeå University Department of Interactive Media and Learning (Sweden)
- Intraflect Ltd (UK)
- ITC - Centre of IT in Education (Lithuania)
- Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (Belgium)
- Kennisnet – Stichting Kennisnet Ict op School (The Netherlands)
- KlasCement (Belgium)
- Lektion.se (Sweden)
- LORO – Languages Open Resources Online (UK)
- Menon Network (Europe)
- NCTE – National Centre for Technology in Education (Ireland)
- DLnet (UK)
- Ontwikkelcentrum (The Netherlands)
- red.es (Spain)
- sDae - Sociedad Digital De Autores Y Editores (Spain)
- Senter for IKT i utdanningen (Norway)
- ShareTEC (Europe)
- Skolverket – The Swedish National Agency for Education (Sweden)
- SLO - Netherlands’ Institute for Curriculum Development (The Netherlands)
- SMART Technologies (UK)
- Teachable.net (UK)
- TLF - Tiger Leap Foundation (Estonia)
- TLU-CET - Talinn University (Estonia)
- UNI•C (Denmark)
- UNI-LJ-FMF, Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Uni. of Ljubljana (Slovenia)
- UPF - Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Spain)
- VETAMIX (Finland)
EdReNe – Educational Repositories Network

• EdReNe develops practical guidelines and recommendations, but most importantly, constitutes a collegial network of European repository nodes and stakeholders.

• The network has the role of connecting the many providers of learning resources with the education community.

• Existing repositories may cut some corners, and new repositories may have a less costly and much less complicated path in life
The first list of issues – still - sets the agenda

• How do you establish a repository of learning resources together with producers and users
• Everyday organisation and management of a repository
• Optimising number of titles and users
• Quality frameworks and criteria
• Networking repositories
• Functionalities and features of a repository
• Pedagogical metadata and links to curriculum
• Management of IPR screening and clearance
• Role of repositories in the new web environment
EdReNe’s themes

EdReNe has categorized the long list of issues into themes

• Repository policies and strategies
• Engagement of producers and users
• Standards and interoperability
• Rights issues

• Alignment of curriculum and content (recent)

• Members share expertise of these themes at seminars – and in between events
The main pillars

Semi-annual seminars
• where members meet and exchange information
  – input from countries and projects may be presented, discussed and condensed

Web forum
• prime dissemination platform of the network
  - forum for published reports, facilitate communication, discussions, exchange of knowledge and information and co-production of documentation
EdReNe events 2007 - 2011

Next event

• 7th Seminar, 26 - 27 October 2011, Chasseneuil-du-Poitou, France

Previous events

• 1st strategic seminar; 11 – 13 June 2007, Naples, Italy
  - WS Repository strategies at general level, 4 – 5 December 2007, Brussels, Belgium
  - WS Standards and interoperability, 8 – 9 January 2008, London, UK
  - WS Engagement of producers and users, 2 – 3 October 2007, Aarhus, Denmark
  - WS Rights issues, 4 – 5 March 2008, Ljubljana, Slovenia

• 2nd strategic seminar; 9 – 11 June 2008, Lisbon, Portugal
  - WS Engagement of producers and users, 20 – 22 October 2008, Alsace, France
  - WS Standards and interoperability, 25 – 27 February Oegstgeest, Netherlands
  - WS Rights issues, 23 – 25 March, Warwick, UK

• 3rd strategic seminar, 3 – 4 June 2009, Stockholm, Sweden
  - WS Repository strategies at general level, 17 – 18 September, Sestri Levante, Italy
  - WS Engagement of producers and users, 18 – 20 November, Linz, Austria

• 4th strategic seminar, 24 - 26 March 2010, Barcelona, Spain

• 5th seminar, 6 – 7 October 2010, Copenhagen, Denmark

• 6th seminar, 18 - 19 May 2011, The Hague, The Netherlands
The expert workshops series
Repositories and resources strategies

Planning, building and running a repository – strategic decisions
EdReNe synthesis report on repository strategies

Prioritized issues of debate
- Quality assurance strategies (editorial policies, technical quality assurance)
- Connecting and cooperating with existing repositories
- Educational repositories in a Google world
- Identifying successful policy actions (government support, public-private partnerships)
- Identifying the decisive benefits that trigger repository use by important target groups: professional publishers, public institutions, teachers...
- Connecting and cooperating with existing repositories
- The cost of building and maintaining a repository
- Strategies for involving key actors in development process
- Repository strategies of national broadcasters
- Strategies of cultural heritage repositories
- Educational repositories in perspective
The expert workshops series
Engagement of producers and users

*Getting educators involved – using, sharing and improving digital content*
*EdReNe synthesis report on engagement of producers and users*

**Prioritized issues of debate**
- Ensuring ease of use (identifying/developing design patterns; usability; wizards...)
- User involvement
- “Being where the customers are”
- How do we get users to come back, to stay and to use the repository?
- Web 2.0 and repositories? (shared queries, social bookmarking, tagging...)
- My repository - the need for personalization (profiles; reviews; collections; automatic recommendations...)
- Building your own content from repository resources (allowing teachers to combine content from various producers)
- Analyzing repository use (statistics; identifying popular functions; interpreting search strings and results; user surveys; characterization of user types)
- Implementation of user generated metadata (evaluations; reviews; tagging; collaborative filtering; information on actual usage...)
- (Central) services for curriculum mapping / vocabulary management - a mapping of status and strategies
- Community building in connection with educational repositories as a strong incentive for educators to share materials (more examples needed)
- Content/information could be presented based on user profiling and personalization.
The expert workshops series
Standards and interoperability

Are current standardization bodies in sync with actual user needs?
EdReNe synthesis report on standards and interoperability

Prioritized issues of debate
- Metadata standards (application profiles, strategies for vocabularies, curriculum mapping)
- Providing best practice examples of the use of standards with proven benefits - and examples not to follow
- Facilitating exchange of metadata
  - across repositories, and between repositories and VLE/LMS
  - Management Systems (LMS)
- Authentication / Identity management
- Statistics on repository use (dealt with in workshops on engagement of users)
- Mapping the landscape of standards (identifying current use; which standards help provide which functional requirements of educators/learners; best practise examples)
- A&A, to share knowledge and best practices on the topic
- Successful/less successful use of OpenID and other SSO standards
The expert workshops series

Rights issues

Is copyright legislation in tune with educators’ expectations?
EdReNe synthesis report on rights issues

Prioritized issues of debate
• Providing guidelines for users/teachers/producers
• Rights management
  (Digital Rights Management, Creative Commons, Protection of rights, Identity management...)
• Rights clearance practices
• Strategies for providing copyright cleared material for education
• Licensing schemes
  (consequences for remixing; Creative Commons; presenting usage rights; cross border concerns...)
• Relevant policies and initiatives (open educational resources; education of content creators; free access to content produced for public money; incentives for commercial producers...)
• Rights clearance practices
  (guidance to educators; strategies for providing copyright cleared material for education...)

Workshop March 2008,
Ljubljana, Slovenia
Workshop March 2009,
Warwick, UK
EdReNe reports

- **EdReNe’s consolidated recommendations**
  - Based on discussions of the four basic themes

- **Four thematic synthesis reports – one for each theme**
  - Repository strategies
  - Engaging users and producers
  - Standards and interoperability
  - Rights issues

- **State of the Art report on educational repositories**
  - Looking for trends, evidence of success and impact (quantity and/or quality)
  - Current status of European educational repositories

- **Templates for agreements and guidelines**
  - for repositories and content owners/providers ...
Building successful educational repositories - recommendations

Repository strategies

- Leverage the support of existing communities of practice by supporting their needs
- Take advantage of generally used, open standards to allow for the broadest range of partnerships, future adaptability and innovation
- Engage with all stakeholders early in the planning process and base development on user needs
- Support open licensing to increase impact of funding and maximize possibilities for reuse and repurposing
- Acknowledge that integration with a range of tools and services will greatly benefit uptake and use of digital learning resources
- Carefully build a sustainable business case based on the broad existing evidence base
Building successful educational repositories - recommendations

Engaging users

- Analyze user behaviour to support development
- It should be easy for users to invite friends
- Make it easy to participate – for all members
- Keep it simple
- A strong community cannot be built quickly – plan for long term sustainability
- A dedicated and skilled community manager is essential
- Build trust and defend your brand
- Describe why you want an online community – to yourself and all involved stakeholders
- Reward user activity
- Keep moderation to a minimum
- Make the community the centre of your web site – never hide it
- Encourage and facilitate real life meetings between users
Building successful educational repositories - recommendations

Standards and interoperability

• No recommendations on a specific standard but rather directions at a higher level
• Present clear and easy-to-understand information on usage rights
• Support the development of ‘sharing as a culture’ by providing user friendly mechanisms for depositing and repurposing
• Make it easier to find quality content
• Open up information silos by a strong focus on web services, APIs and other ways of allowing seamless integration across services.
• When content standards are encouraged, this should be done with central guidance
• Minimize the number of repositories necessary to access for any given user
Building successful educational repositories - recommendations

Rights issues

Policy makers
- Establish coherent licensing strategies for (publicly funded) learning resources
- Advocate reform and development of copyright law

Repository owners
- Clearly express usage rights to users when depositing or accessing resources
- Provide guidance and training on use of Creative Commons licenses

Institution management
- Set up institutional policies and strategies concerning IPR
- Encourage institutions to engage in sharing and production of open content

Publishers and content providers
- Support equal access to market to maximize innovation
- Interesting new business models should be showcased

Teachers and students
- Provide recommendations and guidance on how to remix “incompatible” content
- Encourage use of CC-BY licenses when publishing own work
Current status in Europe: a huge variety of repositories

1) Catalogues of descriptions (metadata, links)
2) Catalogues and Containers of content (metadata & data)
3) Networks of repositories

- Digital resources <-> All types of resources
- Free content <-> Commercial content
- For everybody <-> Membership based (login)
- Validated/screened (quality assurance, rights management)
- Some facilitate feedback
- Target: schools, further/higher ed., homes
Outcomes of the workshops also include

- A draft collection of repository design patterns, describing best practice examples of repository functionality and interface design.

- An overview of current quality assurance strategies of major European repositories – and how these could be further developed.

- Survey results on how repositories currently employ and interact with Google technology, and what major new players/technological trends could influence educational repositories in the near future.

- Survey results on the current case for automatic metadata creation and where emphasis should be put to further develop this area in order to minimize costs while still ensuring as detailed (descriptive and other) metadata as possible.

- A detailed mindmap providing input for the continued discussion on how to most effectively deal with rights issues relating to educational repositories, along with an example collection on how, where and when to provide information to repository users on rights issues.

* Available to members at the EdReNe Members zone
EdReNe.org

- Join our next seminar
- Read recommendations
- Read thematic synthesis reports on
  - Engagement of users and producers
  - Strategies
  - Standards and interoperability
  - Rights issues
- Read proceedings from events
- EdReNe newsletters
- Current status in Europe
- EdReNe leaflet
- Run this presentation
Do you wish to join EdReNe?

• EdReNe invites all stakeholders interested in sharing experiences and opinions on repositories of learning resources to join the network.

• All members may participate in the work and events organised by the network, and they have full access to the Members Zone of the EdReNe website.

• Members cover their own costs from participating in work and events organized by the EdReNe network.

• Consult www.edrene.org

• Contact info@edrene.org

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Disclaimer The content of this presentation is the sole responsibility of the thematic network members. It does not represent the opinion of the European Community and the Community is not responsible for any use that might be made of information contained herein.