Multilingual Open Resources for Independent Learning (MORIL)
--- Next Steps ---

Fred Mulder

Chair MORIL Task Force EADTU
Rector Open Universiteit Nederland
Chair Rector's Conference Dutch Universities (2007-2008)

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in collaboration with

Kees-Jan van Dorp

(Project Manager MORIL)

2007 EADTU Conference, Lisbon, 8-9 November 2007

EADTU

- Stand for a ***new generation*** Open Educational Resources (***OER***)

- Stimulate, extend, and expand the use of ***OER*** among the Open and Distance Learning ***(ODL) universities in Europe***

- Provide ***lifelong learners*** with a ***new (OER-based!) gateway*** to Higher Education (HE)

- Increase and widen ***participation in HE*** through this ***OER-based gateway***, in line with the Lisbon agenda

- Make Lifelong Open and Flexible ***(LOF) learning linked*** with ***new generation OER*** a strong ***Brand*** in Europe

- Share and build on ***scientific and expert OER knowledge***

MORIL so far … Goals

Develop and offer new generation OER learning materials in a Lifelong Open and Flexible learning environment

❑ Learning materials for *independent self-study* (learner-centred instead of teacher-centred; high-quality)

❑ *Easy accessible* to LLL individuals, *at home or at work*, meeting their circumstances and needs (distance learning)

❑ *Online learning environment*, supporting various kinds of *learning services* (a virtual rather than residential campus)

❑ Bridging from *informal learning* to *formal education*

❑ *Mobility of content* in various *languages* and *virtual mobility of students* towards ODL universities elsewhere in Europe

European Association of Distance Teaching Universities (EADTU)

The Open University (English)

Open Universiteit Nederland (Dutch)

FernUniversität in Hagen (German)

Centre National d'Enseignement à Distance (French)

Network per l'Universita Ovunque (Italian)

Universidade Aberta (Portuguese)

Moscow State University of Economics, S and I (Russian)

Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia (Spanish)

Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (Spanish/Catalan)

Anadolu University (Turkish)

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MORIL so far … Project Scope

❑ *Task Force* meetings in 2006 preparing Grant application

❑ Funding by William and Flora Hewlett Foundation: *Planning Grant $ 200.000* + resources / input from participants

❑ Project *start June 2006*, original term 6 months, extended with original Grant money until *end June 2007*

❑ *Core Team* has set out the various activities in the project

❑ *Supplementary funding request* for 2007/2008 processed (Hewlett Foundation)

EADTU

Awareness, commitment, embedding

- Initiate and develop *institutional strategies* and policies
- Explore the *scope of the consortium*
- Experience *ways of working*, sharing, partnering
- *Balance* between *institutional interests* and the associated *diversity* versus the *collective potential*
- Get a good insight in the *pros and cons* of OER
- *Learn* from *early adopters*: UK OU (OpenLearn) and OUNL (OpenER)
- *Extend the commitment* base at the institutions through *dedicated individuals*

Satellite initiatives, spin-offs, and policy infusion

- ❑ Institutes touching ground with *'local' OER Task Forces*

- ❑ Positive look-out for *further funding* opportunities

- ❑ *Increasing* number of *professionals* knowledgeable and devoted to OER at *institutions* but also in *umbrella organizations* like EADTU, ICDE and COL

- ❑ Inflow in *national bodies*, governments and *international consortia*

- ❑ Range of *consultations with EC* bodies, programmes, stakeholders meetings, Commissioner's Cabinet

- ❑ Recognition *ODL as a special branch* in OCW Consortium

MORIL so far … Achievements[3]

Widespread dissemination

- ❑ *Press, radio, television, blogs*, etc: foregrounding members
- ❑ *Forums, conferences, seminars* / national, European and global / R&D, policy, good practice
- ❑ Specific responsibility for dissemination *among EADTU members*

MORIL so far … Achievements[4]

MORIL partners say….

"Translate French online courses in *German*, *Spanish* and *English*"

"Planning to adopt and to localize in Russian at least 20 courses"

"Generate no less than twelve 1 ECTS courses"

"Number of courses in the portal will increase progressively within time"

"Extending beyond Europe to Latin America and the United States"

"Make available one or two courses for MORIL activities"

"Planning to create at least 10 multilingual courses"

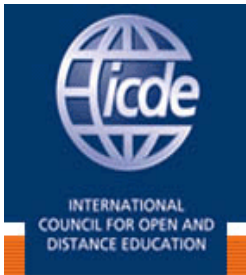"Co-production system to realise courses in a multilingual format"

"All OER courses already developed will be made available"

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ICDE: Global OER Task Force

❑ *ICDE* = International Council for open and Distance Education / *Membership* includes for example: UK OU, FernUni, UOC, OUNL, and many other HE institutions around the world

❑ ICDE has an *OER Task Force*, with *UNESCO* involved. This Task Force had its *kick-off* meeting at UNESCO's Headquarters in Paris (Nov 12-13, 2006)

❑ The TF has *15 members* around the world / from EADTU:

David Vincent (UK OU), Helmut Hoyer (FernUni);

Chair: Fred Mulder (OUNL)

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❑ ***SCOP*** = Standing Conference Of Presidents / ***SCOP 2007*** at OUNL in Heerlen (NL), theme:

   "Open Educational Resources as an instrument for achieving Education for All"

❑ The ***OER Task Force*** reported at ***SCOP 2007*** and received a ***follow-up agenda,*** inspired by a ***composition*** (music & video) dedicated to OER, and based on ***external reviews*** from a variety of outstanding experts (e.g. from OECD, UNESCO, Hewlett Foundation) and an intensive in-depth ***discussion*** among the 65 SCOP participants

SCOP HEERLEN 2007

SCOP 2007 Conclusions[1]

- ➤ Apply **openness** in **broadest sense** / **Connect** the **ODL or LOF** learning characteristics to **OER** in order to **maximize its potential**

- ➤ Open is **not equal to 'no costs'**, it is much richer

- ➤ **Keep OER away** from a **fundamentalist** approach or a **dogmatic** view

- ➤ In the **global** diversity the **OER power** is to be used **diverse** regarding e.g. target groups, goals / ambitions, development state, national systems, scale / scope, content portion

- ➤ International **prioritization** is difficult due to this diversity / Keep at **institutional** or **national** level

SCOP 2007 Conclusions[2]

- At the ***international*** level it is most worthwhile to ***exchange*** strategies, policies, best practices, expertise …

- The notion ***"Knowledge is a public good"*** requires ***public funding***

- ***Sustainability*** is not for granted and depends on a ***change in funding schemes*** (change in weights of components or additional money)

- It is necessary to ***explore Public-Private*** interactions, collaborations and even alliances

SCOP 2007 Recommendations[1]

- ✓ Explore the *primary* question: "How can *OER contribute* to respond to the *'Education for all' UNESCO policy*, capacity building, widening participation and access?"

- ✓ And the *secondary* question: "What *role* can be attributed to *OER* in developing or strengthening a *knowledge society*?"

- ✓ ICDE should not address all kinds of general OER issues (that is being done by many others already), but rather *concentrate* on the *self-study* and *learner-centred* approach, in other words the *ICDE flavour* in OER materials

- ✓ Make a *deeper analysis* of the *diversity* regarding OER, the underlying *assumptions* or *grounds* and the required *variety in actions* (e.g. collaboration ICDE and UNESCO)

SCOP 2007 Recommendations[2]

- ✓ Make *practical reports* that relate to ODL / LOF learning about QA, sustainability, adaptation to language / culture, content & services (e.g. assessment), IPR / Copyright. All *based on case studies* (UK OU, OUNL, MORIL, OLCOS, E-xcellence; also from other continents)

- ✓ Make a list of *arguments* you can expect from the OER *opposition* and formulate *responses*

- ✓ Contribute to OER *awareness raising*

- ✓ *Mobilize* political resonance and media exposure for OER using *ICDE as a brand*

- ✓ Develop *handbooks for OER*

Supplemental Hewlett Foundation Grant requested

For 2008: $ 109.000 ($ 34.000 left over from original grant)

- ❑ ***OER transfer seminar*** for all ***EADTU*** members

- ❑ ***OER capacity building seminars:*** the first to be held soon in ***Europe*** as a 'prototype', paralleled by ***outreach actions*** preparing similar ***seminars in other continents*** around the world (adopting an ICDE TF idea, linking with the Ibero-American AIESAD, the African ACDE, & others)

- ❑ ***MORIL-OER Portal:*** central ***referatory portal***, the gateway to the repository portals of the MORIL partners

THE WILLIAM AND FLORA
HEWLETT
FOUNDATION

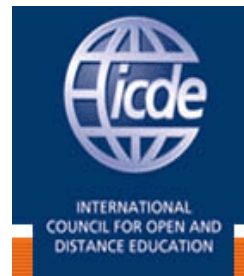**Multilingual Open Resources for Independent Learning (MORIL)**
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Thank you …

Contact

fred.mulder@ou.nl

kees-jan.vandorp@eadtu.nl

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