



## Open Education in European Libraries of Higher Education Survey 2021

### INTRODUCTION

Dear Librarian, welcome to the 2021 edition of SPARC Europe's Survey of European academic libraries and Open Education (OE).

*We define **Open Education** as resources, tools and practices that are free of legal, financial and technical barriers and can be fully used, shared and adapted in the digital environment. OE is also about the culture we grow together from our positions and with our different roles.*

*OER or **Open Educational Resources** are learning, teaching and research materials in any format and medium that reside in the public domain or are under copyright that have been released under an open license, that permit no-cost access, re-use, re-purpose, adaptation and redistribution by others.*

This survey was developed in consultation with members of the [European Network of Open Education Librarians](#) (ENOEL). Whilst some Higher Education libraries have taken on the OE challenge, others are still to do so. The aim of this survey is to explore and collect information about the work done by academic librarians to implement the [UNESCO OER Recommendation](#), published in Nov 2019. The survey is designed around the five areas of action of the Recommendation.

We plan to use the collected data to organize our activities going forward to provide you with Open Education support in the future.



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### **Taking the survey**

We ask that this survey be completed by the main individual responsible for OE in your library, e.g. OE Librarian, Teaching & Learning Librarian, or if absent, the Library Director. Please submit only one response per organization.

Although we would like you to answer every question, only those marked with an asterisk \* are mandatory. We have one mandatory question for each of the five UNESCO OER Recommendations.

The survey also requests information on total staff and student numbers and a short summary of your OE policy, if your organization has one. It may be useful to have this information and document to hand prior to starting the survey.

You don't need to complete the survey in one sitting. You can close it and return later to the page where you left off. Leaving the survey via the exit button on the top right of the page saves your progress. You can then return to the survey at the same point, using the same link and the device you started on.

We recognize that many who participate in the survey will not be active on the full range of issues covered. Please do not be discouraged if some questions do not correspond with your current ways of working: all answers will help us paint a picture of the current status of OE in academic libraries in Europe.

Completing the survey will take approximately 30-40 minutes.  
A PDF is downloadable [here](#).

For questions, please reach out to [survey@sparceurope.org](mailto:survey@sparceurope.org).

### **Ethics and data protection policy**

The survey is managed by SPARC Europe. Answers will be reported in aggregate in a report, personal data will be removed before the dataset is deposited on Zenodo with a CC0 licence. For more on our ethics and data protection policy, see here:

<https://sparceurope.org/privacy-policy/>

You may supply your name and contact details to be informed of the outcomes of this study and to answer any follow-up questions. No personal information is required to submit a response.

We will share the results in the third quarter of 2021 on the ENOEL webpage.

### **Deadline**

Friday, 11 June 2021 (extended deadline), 23.59 CEST



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\* 1. I understand and agree to participate in the survey.

Yes

No

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### RECENT IMPACT ON OPEN EDUCATION

2. How did the COVID-19 pandemic affect Open Education at your institution?

*Please choose one response per row.*

	Increase	Decrease	No change	Don't know
Use of Open Educational Resources (OER)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Creation of OER	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Awareness of the need for Openness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Open Education Policy development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please specify if "Other"

\* 3. Are you familiar with the [UNESCO OER Recommendation](#) and its areas of actions?

- We are very familiar with it and are implementing it
- We are familiar with it and have adapted or reviewed our strategy accordingly
- We know it but have not yet taken any action
- We have heard about it
- We are not familiar with it (yet)

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Action Area 1. BUILDING CAPACITY

1.1 Library engagement with Open Education

\* 4. Does your library take the lead in advancing Open Education or Open Educational Resources (OER) in your organisation?

- Yes  
 No  
 I don't know

5. Does your organisation have a formal task force, committee or other entity with an Open Education focus?

*Please choose one response per row.*

	Yes	No	Don't know
At an institution-wide level	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
At a library level	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please specify if "Other"

6. Which library department, if any, takes the lead in any areas of Open Education / OER efforts?

- Collection management
- Innovation
- Open Education department
- Scholarly communications
- Senior management
- Student services
- Teaching and learning support
- Research support
- Other (please specify)

7. Do you work together with colleagues involved in Open Access or Open Science / Scholarship or use resources common to both when providing Open Education support? Or do you work with other teams? Please briefly tell us how you work together and on what.

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1.2 Library Open Education advocacy

8. As a library, how do you advocate for Open Education / OER?

*Please select all that apply.*

- Events
- Faculty meetings
- Graduate professional development programmes
- Libguide
- Library events
- Newsletter or blog
- Publications
- Presentations
- Social media channels
- Teacher training programmes
- Undergraduate professional development
- Other training (e.g. information literacy)
- Website
- Other (please specify)

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### 1.3 Library services

9. On what level does your library work or liaise with the following bodies in your advancement of Open Education / OER?

*Please choose one response per row.*

	Regular	Ad-hoc	N/A
Academic Departments	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Assistive Technology or Disability Services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Communications Office	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
E-Learning/Distance Education	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Faculty	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
ICT Staff	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Legal Department	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Students, e.g. undergrads and postgrads	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Senior Administration	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Student Services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Teaching and Learning Centre	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Vice-rectorate or equivalent	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Research Centre or Service	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Regional/National Networks/communities/consortia	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
International Networks/communities/consortia	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Graduate Schools	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other libraries	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)



10. To what extent does your library provide Open Education / OER services? Please tell us whether you take the lead or have a supportive role.

*Please choose one response per row.*

	Lead role	Supportive role	N/A
Advice on copyright and open licensing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Collection management / dealing with education publishers and aggregators	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Course pack provision	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Creation of open textbooks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Data curation & interoperability	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Discovery services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Information literacy, including open education	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Knowledge exchange	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
OER co-creation (e.g. toolkits, libguides or others with CC licenses)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
OER provision (evaluation, selection, etc) to complement courses	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Management & storage service (e.g. repositories)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Metadata to index digital resources	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Participatory design	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Training / Education	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)

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### 1.4 Skills

11. To what extent does your library have the skills it needs to support Open Education?

*Please choose one response per row.*

	Full skill set	Many skills	Limited skills	No skills	N/A
Advice on copyright and open licensing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Collection management / dealing with education publishers and aggregators	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Course pack provision	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Creation of open textbooks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Data curation & interoperability	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Discovery services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Information literacy, including open education	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Knowledge exchange	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
OER co-creation (e.g. toolkits, libguides or others with CC licenses)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
OER provision (evaluation, selection, etc) to complement courses	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Management & Storage service (e.g. repositories)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Metadata to index digital resources	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Participatory design	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Training / Education	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)

12. Please tell us a bit more about how you source your skills.

Please select all options that apply per row.

	We have the skills in the library	From outside the library, but within the institution (e.g. from faculty or other support services)	From outside the institution (e.g. consultants, volunteers, experts in other institutions)
Advice on copyright and open licensing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Collection management / dealing with education publishers and aggregators	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Course pack provision	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creation of open textbooks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Data curation & interoperability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Discovery services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Information literacy, including open education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Knowledge exchange	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
OER co-creation (e.g. toolkits, libguides or others with CC licenses)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
OER Provision (evaluation, selection, etc) to complement courses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Management & Storage service (e.g. repositories)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metadata to index digital resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Participatory design	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Training / Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Action Area 2. DEVELOPING SUPPORTIVE POLICY

***We refer to policy as a written document that stipulates the expectations related to Open Education for an institution or country. Its goal is to lead to the creation, increased use and/or support for improving Open Educational Resources (OER). Beyond an institutional policy document, institutional strategic plans, laws, rules, green papers, white papers, roadmaps, declarations, and funding programmes are included in policy.***

\* 13. Does your organisation have a policy that addresses Open Education in any way?

- Yes
- Under development
- Under consideration
- No
- I don't know

If yes, please add link here:

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2. DEVELOPING SUPPORTIVE POLICY

14. Is your organisation's Open Education policy part of a larger, overarching internal policy, or is it a standalone policy dedicated to Open Education?

- Part of a larger, overarching policy
- Standalone policy dedicated to Open Education

15. Was your library involved in the policy conception?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

16. Does your country have a national Open Education policy?

- Yes
- Under development
- Under consideration
- No
- I don't know

If yes, please add link here:

17. Have there been any new and/or revised policies, national frameworks related to OER in your country (stand alone, integrated, at governmental level, at institutional level) since the **25th of November 2019**, when the UNESCO OER Recommendation was adopted?

- New policy published
- New policy under development
- New policy under consideration
- Revised policy published
- Revised policy under development
- Revised policy under consideration
- No change
- I don't know
- Other (please specify)

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### Action Area 3. ENCOURAGING EFFECTIVE, INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE ACCESS TO QUALITY OER

\* 18. Does your library take proactive steps to provide/create relevant OER that are designed to be:  
*Please choose one response per row.*

	Yes	No	I don't know
Sensitive in relation to different ages, races, genders, social-economic statuses, etc.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Culturally equitable (embodying the values, policies, and practices of all people)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Linguistically diverse (e.g. in local languages and in at least one second language)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Accessible to meet both needs and material circumstances of target learners (e.g. available offline, in printed version, etc)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)

19. How does your library ensure that gender equality, diversity, racial justice, equity, accessibility, and inclusiveness are reflected in OER strategies and programmes?

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Action Area 4. SUSTAINING OER

20. How many FTE (full time equivalent) staff members are dedicated to working on Open Education in your library? Note this excludes Open Access, Open Scholarship or Open Science.

- 0
- 0.1-1
- 2-5
- 6-9
- 10+

\* 21. Does your organisation have a grant programme to encourage and assist members in your organisation to create OERs?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

If yes, please provide the name of this programme or a link to more information

22. As a library, did you acquire seed funding for Open Educational work? If so, where from, e.g. senior institutional management, faculty, IT, student services, library, external.



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Action Area 5. PROMOTING AND REINFORCING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

\* 23. Is your library involved in creating, maintaining or participating in networks that share OER, based on areas such as subject matters, languages, institutions, regions and level of education on local, regional and/or global levels?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

If yes, please list them

24. Is your library involved in promoting and stimulating cross-border collaboration and alliances on OER projects and programmes?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

If yes, please list them

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**6. BENEFITS, CHALLENGES AND NEEDS**

25. What top three opportunities or benefits have you identified in supporting Open Education in your library?

*Your responses may be up to 500 characters per opportunity/benefit.*

Opportunity/Benefit 1

Opportunity/Benefit 2

Opportunity/Benefit 3

26. What are your top three key challenges in supporting Open Education in your library?

*Your responses may be up to 500 characters per challenge.*

Key challenge 1

Key challenge 2

Key challenge 3

27. What top three areas would you need Open Education support for that you cannot source within the library?

*Your responses may be up to 500 characters per need.*

Need 1

Need 2

Need 3

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7. ABOUT YOUR ORGANISATION

\* 28. What is the name of your organisation?

29. Which of the following best describes your organisation?

- Distance learning university
- Specialised institution (e.g. medical science, music and arts school)
- Teaching college
- Technical university / University of technology
- University / Comprehensive institution (e.g. covering all or most academic disciplines)
- University of Applied Sciences (college-type or professional education institution which does not award PhDs, or does so in only a few disciplines)
- Other (please specify)

30. Please describe the size of your organisation - how many FTE (full time equivalent) staff members are there?

*Please provide a total FTE of all staff members in your organisation.*

- 0 - 1,000
- 1,001 - 5,000
- 5,001 - 10,000
- 10,001 - 15,000
- > 15,000
- N/A

31. Please describe the size of your organisation - how many students are there?

*Please provide the total for enrolled students ISCED 5-7 (short-cycle, bachelors and masters or equivalents).*

- 0 - 1,000
- 1,001 - 5,000
- 5,001 - 10,000
- 10,001 - 15,000
- > 15,000
- N/A

32. In what country is your organisation based?



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### YOUR DETAILS

33. Are you a decision-maker in your library/institution or are you in a more supportive role? (We value both perspectives, but we need to know, in order to analyse the answers accordingly)

- Decision maker
- In a supportive role
- Other (please specify)

34. How long have you been in OE?

- less than 1 year
- 2-5 years
- 6-10 years
- more than 10 years

35. Your details.

*This is an optional question. SPARC Europe will only use these details should you consent for them to contact you to share results and to request further information, if necessary.*

Name

Function in organisation

Email address

36. Would you like to share your skills in the European Network of OE Librarians?

- Yes
- No

37. If you'd like to share your expertise, what are your areas of expertise?



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### YOUR DETAILS

38. If you would like to add any further comments to your survey response, please include these below.

\* 39. Do you consent to be contacted by SPARC Europe in order for us to share the survey results with you, if we need further information or if we'd like to survey you next year? Your answer to this question has no impact on your survey response.

Yes

No