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Open Educational Resources in Lithuania: State-of-the-Art, Challenges and Prospects for Development

Open educational resources (OER) have been promoted by UNESCO since 2002. Scientists and education institution managers and professionals benefit from the use of OER in their practices, building online communities for OER cooperative development, re-use and integration into lifelong learning process (LLL). All education institutions address the needs of lifelong learners in both formal and non-formal process of education. Differences mainly occur in how far institutions use information communication technologies (ICT) in learning and teaching practices and which solutions they choose.

The research aims at identification of country – based needs and opportunities in promoting and supporting OER development in the context of higher education and LLL.

The objectives of the research are:

1. To identify national policy and strategies in terms of application of ICT in education.
2. To discuss the notion of OER and the concept of openness, tracing the phenomenon of OER in Lithuania.
3. To define the practices in curriculum modernization issues highlighting practices of application of OER in curriculum modernization in higher education institutions.
4. To analyse potential OER repositories in Lithuania.
5. To identify the factors that encourage and sustain OER development in the country, and to provide recommendations for OER development.

The main national political documents have been reviewed, strategies and regulations, as well as program documents, and current status on the use of ICT at education institutions, including intellectual property rights, access to resources, and quality assurance issues are discussed in the research focusing on OER development. Practices, challenges and prospects are presented in the paper. The factors that prevent wider introduction of OER into educational practices are identified during the research, as well as the factors that sustain OER introduction into educational practices in Lithuania.

