Building Institutional Support and Policies for Sustainable OER in Higher Education

Insights from Austria

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University of Vienna | Shared-OER-Services

12.11.2025

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- **Knowledge transfer** in the context of institutional anchoring of OER for the Austrian Higher Education Sector
- Focus: Identifying and exploiting **synergies** from Open Science and Open Education
- **Shared-OER-Services** for Austrian Higher Education Institutions
- Part of the **Digital Teaching** Team of CTL, Uni Vienna
- Professional and academic background at the **interface of Computer Science, Didactics and Library & Information Studies**

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Open Education ◀▶ Open Science

Let‘s start the journey through the different perspectives …

1. Global
2. EU
3. Austria

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Open Education ◀▶ Open Science

SDG – Sustainable Development Goal Number 4

“Quality Education”

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

*OER can **promote and reinforce knowledge sharing and collaboration** between stakeholders implementing the SDGs.*
*OER can be used to i**ncrease access to learning** for those living in unfavourable circumstances, and can also be used to address issues of cost, quality, and equity.*
*OER are presently **being actively used** in all sectors of education including literacy, vocational, and adult education, as well as with immigrants and refugees (with prior learning assessment and recognition).*
*OER can be i**nstrumental in improving the quality*** of education through open curriculum development.
OER are **digital**; the world **economy** is digital.

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globalgoals.org

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8 ambitions of the EU's open science policy

- Open Data
- European Open Science Cloud (EOSC)
- New generation metrics
- Mutual learning exercise on open science - altmetrics and rewards
- Future of scholarly communication
- Rewards
- Research integrity & reproducibility of scientific results
- **Education and skills**
- Citizen science

Educational skills

*All scientists in Europe should have the necessary skills and support to apply **open science** research routines and practices.*

Open Science | European Commission (europa.eu)

Providing researchers with the skills and competencies they need to practise Open Science - Publications Office of the EU (europa.eu)

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8 ambitions of Austria's open science policy

- Rewards and incentives (Rewards and incentives)
- Research indicators and next-generation metrics
- Future of scholarly communication
- European Open Science Cloud EOSC
- FAIR data
- Research integrity
- **Skills and education**
- Citizen science

Skills and education

*All researchers in Europe should develop the skills necessary to apply **Open Science practices** and, where appropriate, receive support to do so.*

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bmbwf.gv.at

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OER in the OS Policy Austria

- **"Open Education Austria Advanced“** (2020-2024) was concerned with the implementation of a corresponding infrastructure

- Universities are **called upon to**
  - create **infrastructures** for storing OER
  - **share** them with others

- **Staff working at universities** should be encouraged to post their content and share it in open formats where possible and appropriate.

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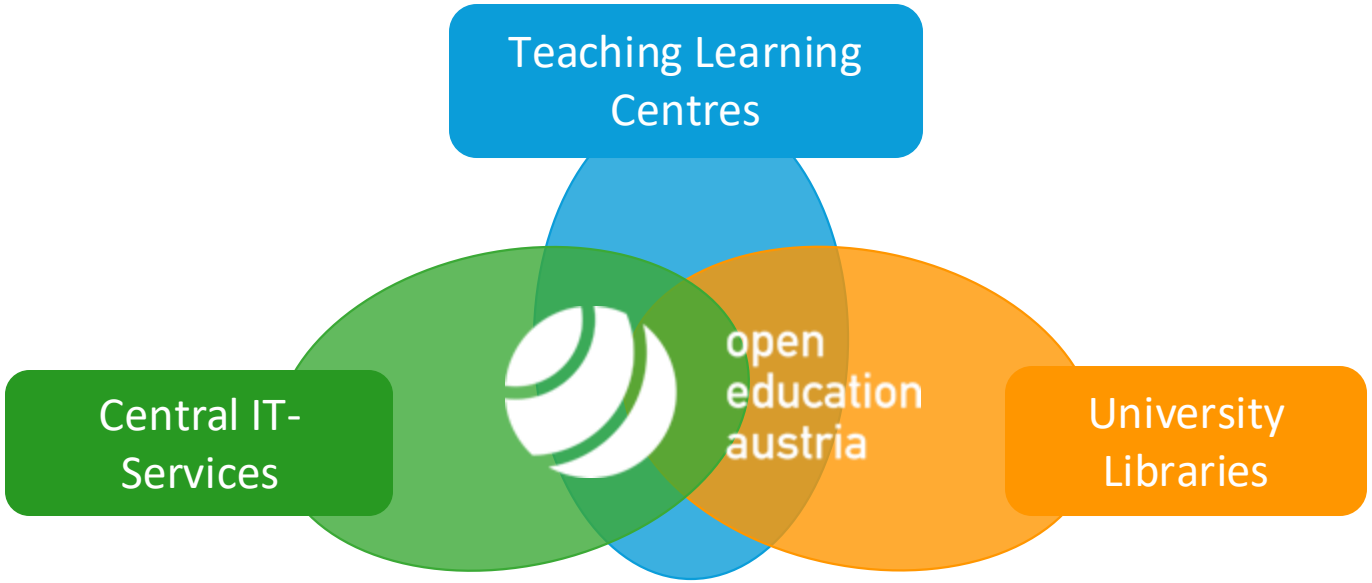
Open Education Austria Advanced – Working at the crossroads …



→ **to establish open educational practices**

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www.openeducation.at

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Open Education Austria Advanced (2020-2024)

- **OERhub** as a central meta-search engine for OER from the higher education sector
- Creation of local **infrastructures** at the partner universities
- Freely accessible **qualification** offers for OER
- OER **certification** for universities & teachers
- OER **production** workflow & legal issues
- **Knowledge transfer** & dissemination between participating and interested universities

www.openeducation.at

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iMooX – Austrias MOOC-Plattform

- Austria's national MOOC platform for open online learning
- Offers free, openly licensed courses (OER) for universities and the public
- Operated under the Shared OER Services
- Enables integration with university systems (e.g., LTI, eduroam)
- Part of European MOOC networks promoting open, digital education

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imoox.at

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From projects to Sustainable Services

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OER certification framework for the Austrian Higher Education Sector

Certified OER Higher Education Institution

Die OER-Zertifizierung macht österreichische Hochschulen mit strategischem Engagement zu Open Educational Resources (OER) mit dem weltweit ersten Zertifikat für Bildungseinrichtungen sichtbar.

Akkreditierte OER-Weiterbildung

Geprüfte Weiterbildungskonzepte garantieren Teilnehmer:innen und Hochschulen die Vermittlung von OER-Knowhow.

OER Practitioner | OER-Praktiker:in

Seit 2022 erhalten Mitarbeiter:innen österreichischer Hochschulen dieses Zertifikat zum Nachweis ihrer OER-Kompetenzen bei Teilnahme an einer akkreditieren Weiterbildung.

For more information: www.oer-zertifikat.at

Concept & Organisation by: <fnma>

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OER certification framework for the Austrian Higher Education Sector

- 5 "Certified OER Higher Education Institution“
- 26 Certificates for Criterias A-C, e.g. 11 HEI with OER-strategies & policies
- 11 accredited OER qualification offers at HEI
- 264 OER Practitioner at HEI

For more information: www.oer-zertifikat.at

Numbers from 12.11.2025

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universität wien

Shared-OER-Services for Austrian Higher Education Institutions

Support for Austrian universities in adopting and expanding OER

Consulting, exchange & networking

National platform for open online courses (MOOCs)

Infrastructure and support for MOOCs

National meta-search engine for OER

Integration of Austrian institutional repositories

Knowledge transfer

iMooX

OERhub

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Shared-OER-Services for Austrian Higher Education Institutions

- Developing and implementing an **institutional OER strategy**
- Setting up **policies for open licensing** and copyright compliance
- Designing **quality standards and workflows** for OER creation
- Integrating OER into **learning management systems** and course platforms
- Selecting and configuring **repository software** for institutional OER
- Planning **metadata, documentation, and cataloguing standards**
- Conducting **needs assessments** or surveys for OER adoption
- Supporting **faculty training** and capacity building for OER use
- Promoting **cross-departmental collaboration** on shared teaching materials
- Linking OER activities to **digitalization initiatives** or **open science policies**

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Knowledge transfer

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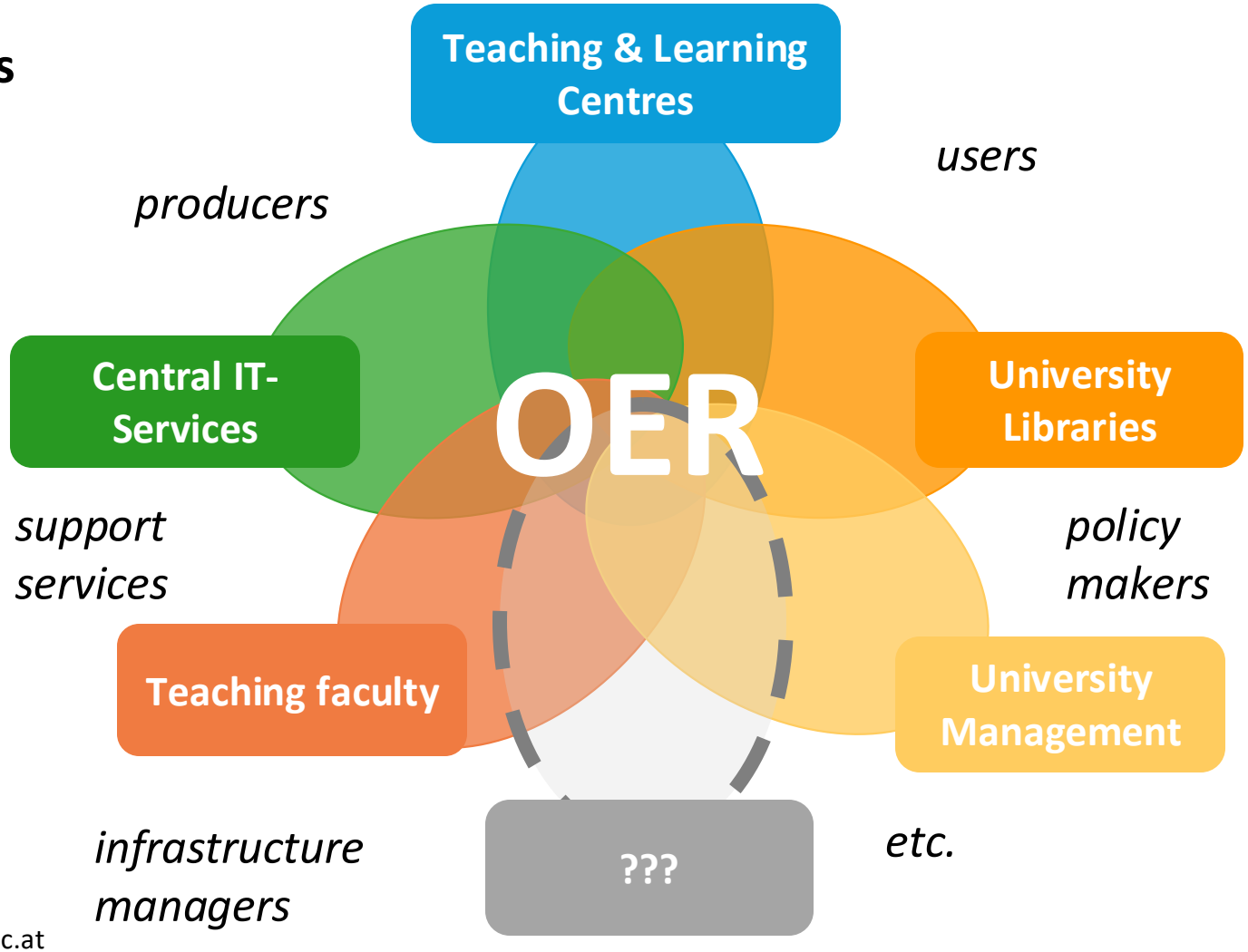
What else do we need?

→ **to establish open educational practices**

… and many more perspectives … in the evolving OER ecosystem



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Thank you!

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