



WSIS | 19-23 FORUM | MARCH 2018 Geneva | Switzerland

WSIS Forum 2018 OUTCOME DOCUMENT

Thematic Workshop

UNESCO OER Recommendation

- 1) **Title of your session** : UNESCO OER Recommendation
- 2) **Name of Organization/s organizing the session**: UNESCO
- 3) **Relevance with the WSIS Action Lines** – E-learning (Action Line C7)
- 4) **Key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments**
 - Multi-stakeholder discussion on follow up to the Ljubljana OER Action Plan.
- 5) **Main outcomes highlighting the following:**
 - I. **Debated Issues**
 - The objective of the session was to introduce the Ljubljana OER Action Plan and discuss its implementation strategy. In particular, the session focused on examining elements from the Ljubljana OER Action Plan adopted at the 2nd World OER Congress 2017 and their contribution to a UNESCO OER Recommendation to be developed in the 2018/2019 period further to a decision of the UNESCO General Conference at its 39th Session (November 2017). The five areas for action highlighted in the Ljubljana OER Action Plan are: 1) the capacity of users to access, re-use and share OER; 2) issues relating to language and culture; 3) ensuring inclusive and equitable access to quality OER; 4) changing business models; and 5) the development of supportive policy environments.



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During the session, Zeynep Varoglu, Programme Specialist, ICT in Education, Knowledge Societies Division, Communication and Information Sector, UNESCO, outlined the Ljubljana OER Action Plan and its follow up, including the decision of the 40th UNESCO General Conference to develop a draft OER Recommendation. Mr Gasper Hrastelj, Deputy Secretary-General, Slovenian National Commission to UNESCO, presented the Ljubljana OER Action Plan from a Governmental Perspective and Dr Sophie Touzé, President of the Board of Open Education Consortium (OEC), presented on the Ljubljana OER Action Plan from an Institutional and NGO Perspective.

This presentation was followed by an interactive session, which focused on discussion on key issues, actions and actors for each of the 5 areas identified above in the Ljubljana OER Action Plan. In the report back session, participants presented the outputs of their working group sessions on the five areas of action.

The issue highlighted in the debate was the importance of regulatory bodies and governments in supporting the use and development of OER.

II. Quotes

“The government has started to initiate a nationwide movement for OER in countries, and this movement needs to provide enough guidance for the people working on it.” - Ali Alyafei, Ministry of Education, United Arab Emirates.

III. Overall outcomes of the session

- Consensus that OER provides an innovative means to reach the goals of SDG4;
- The vision for implementation of WSIS Action lines beyond 2015 : OER provides an innovative development in the area of e-learning



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- IV. Main linkages with the Sustainable Development Goals : SDG4
'Inclusive Quality Lifelong Learning'**

- V. Emerging Trends related to WSIS Action Lines identified during
the meeting : Importance of OER for achieving SDG4**

- VI. Suggestions for Thematic Aspects that might be included in the
WSIS Forum 2019**

Developing an OER Recommendation