



OPEN EDUCATIONAL QUALITY INITIATIVE

OPAL: Make the shift from Resources to Practices!

The Open Educational Quality Initiative (OPAL) is a new quality initiative which helps educational professionals, organisational leaders, learners, and policy makers to make use of open educational resources (OER) in the best possible way. OPAL provides quality guidelines and self-assessment tools which show how existing educational practices in higher education and adult education can be made increasingly open in order to better integrate OER and improve the quality of learning experiences. The initiative is the result of a partnership between organizations including UNESCO, the International Council for Open and Distance education, the European Foundation for Quality in E-Learning, and a number of universities. On the basis of analysis of international case studies, the OPAL Initiative has concluded that it is necessary to move from a paradigm of providing better access to open educational resources to a new paradigm of open educational practices in order to guarantee the uptake of OER in education. The OPAL Initiative will provide tools including a good practice case box of good open educational practices, a register of international champions of open educational practices, quality guidelines and a self-assessment concept for organisations, individuals, teaching practice and policy. (More on www.oer-quality.org)

OPAL: How can you be part?

The Open Educational Quality Initiative will develop all tools and concepts in accordance with a strict open consultation philosophy. Through open consultation events, the opinion and critical analysis of all stakeholders within the open education community will be sought (www.oer-quality.org). In addition, OPAL will initiate a consultative group to look at quality of open educational practices. This group of high level experts, consisting of representatives of selected champions in the field of open educational practices, will take the lead in developing a roadmap to facilitate the adoption of open educational practices within policy and practice, in turn leading to better and more innovative educational processes in higher education and adult education.

OPAL Consultation Events 2010

- **1st Consultative Group meeting** at the EFQUEL Innovation Forum, Lisbon, Portugal, SEPT 8th-10th, 2010
- **2nd Consultative Group meeting** at the OpenEd Conference, Barcelona, Spain, NOV 5th, 2010
- **Research Workshop on Open Educational Practices:** Workshop on quality, innovation through open educational practices, UNESCO Headquarter, Paris, NOV 8th-9th, 2010
- **Official Launch of the Open Educational Practice Initiative** at Online Educa Berlin, Germany, 1st DEC 2010

How can you benefit?

- OPAL goes beyond building provision and access to OER and makes recommendations based on selected and validated examples of how best to use OER in practice, improve quality and innovate teaching and learning.
- OPAL combines the development of guidelines, web-based self-assessment tools and in-depth research with an international consultation group, aggregates all tools into a roadmap, and mainstreams quality and innovation as important topics for open educational resources initiatives and repositories.
- OPAL is grounded in the international OER community and provides web-based self-assessment tools for open educational practices, guidelines, and a register for champion institutions in Europe and beyond.
- Organizations and individuals are given the opportunity to submit their own examples of best practice to OPAL and will be provided with clear peer-review analysis of these practices

OPAL Partners

- UNESCO
- International Council for Open and Distance Education - ICDE
- EFQUEL
- University of Duisburg-Essen
- Aalto University
- Catholic University Portugal
- Open University UK

Interested? Contact OPAL @ www.oer-quality.org

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