Openness, Open Education and Open Licenses:
How can we increase awareness and understanding of current open licenses and facilitate their broad usage for open learning worldwide?

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Abstract. This panel at OE Global 2016 discussed a current topic that needs to be addressed urgently: How can we increase awareness and understanding of current licenses and facilitate their broad usage for open learning worldwide? Open Education is an increasing requirement due to dramatic changes in societies. The big challenge is that openness is defined in various ways and dimensions such as open educational resources, open access, open textbooks, etc. Open licenses can support and increase open education but lacking broad awareness worldwide. Next to the general challenge that most educators are not aware of them, there is another problem that needs to be discussed among experts and interested open educators: Creative Commons as the most known and used legal licenses are distinguishing among categories that are not always easy to understand and may not cover all potential use cases. The panel discussed the need to provide simple case studies about and awareness raising activities for legal open licenses so all educators and policy makers have accurate information about openly licensing educational resources.

Keywords: Openness, Open Education, Open Licenses, Creative Commons, Attribution, Sharing, national laws, legal systems and regulations, open policy, OER.

1 Panel on Openness, Open Education and Open Licenses

This panel at OE Global 2016 in Krakow (Poland) discussed a current topic that needs to be addressed urgently: How can we increase awareness and understanding of current licenses and facilitate their broad usage for open learning worldwide? Open Education is an increasing requirement due to dramatic changes in societies. The big challenge is that openness is defined in various ways and dimensions such as open educational resources, open access, open textbooks, etc. Open licenses can support and increase open education but lacking broad awareness worldwide. Next to the general challenge that most educators are not aware of them, there is another problem that needs to be discussed among experts and interested open educators: Creative Commons as the most known and used legal licenses are distinguishing among
categories that are not always easy to understand and may not cover all potential use cases. The panel discussed the need to provide simple case studies about and awareness raising activities for legal open licenses so all educators and policy makers have accurate information about openly licensing educational resources.

2 Structure of the Panel

The panel discussed the general questions about categories of openness for Open Education and in particular the challenges of lack of awareness of open licenses such as Creative Commons and how CC licenses can be used by national governments (e.g., requiring publicly funded educational resources are openly licensed).

The panel included the following experts and organisations:

1 Christian M. Stracke (ICORE), Moderator
2 Cable Green (Creative Commons)
3 Svetlana Knyazeva (UNESCO IITE)

3 Results of the Panel

The panel started a lively discussion also involving and encouraging the participants to join the debate. Major results of the discussion are:

1 We need more awareness of Open Licenses such as Creative Commons and their benefits worldwide.
2 Education and Open Educational Resources (OER) are different from other sectors and need special attention, guidelines and examples.
3 Learning opportunities and training on Open Licenses are urgently needed for all educators (teachers, lecturers, professors, trainers, etc.) to increase their usage.
4 Open Education and Open Research are directly connected and can benefit from each other through mutual (re-)usage of the open results.

References

ICORE: www.ICORE-online.org
Creative Commons: www.creativecommons.org
UNESCO IITE: http://iite.unesco.org/