

Launch of the Unitwin Network on Open Education (UNOE)

Wednesday June 26, 2024

15:00 – 17:00 CEST

Videoconference event. In English.

Link:

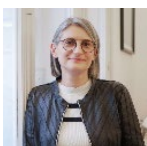
<https://tinyurl.com/UNOE-launch>



Program

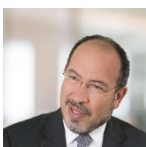
15:00: Inauguration of UNOE under the auspices of Nantes Université & UNESCO

Moderator: Colin de la Higuera, UNESCO Chair in Open Educational Resources and Artificial Intelligence (RELIA), Nantes Université



Carine Bernault
President of Nantes Université

Sobhi Tawil
Director Future of Learning and Innovation at UNESCO



Taoufik Jelassi
Assistant Director-General for Communication
and Information at UNESCO

15:30: Guest lecture by Mr François Taddei

President of the Learning Planet Institute (LPI) and holder of the UNESCO Chair in the Science of Learning

“We need to reimagine universities for a sustainable future: Let's promote open education and collective responsibility”



François Taddei, President of the Learning Planet Institute (LPI), has dedicated his career to revolutionizing education through innovation and collaboration. Co-founding the Center for Interdisciplinary Research (CRI) in 2006, he aimed to train scientists at the nexus of life sciences, learning, and digital technologies. The evolution of CRI into LPI in 2021 underscores Taddei's commitment to transforming education.

As LPI's Founder, Taddei leverages his expertise in evolutionary systems biology to advance the learning sciences globally. He advocates for large-scale collaboration to build a learning planet, supported by UNESCO and the United Nations University. Through initiatives like the Institute of Challenges, Taddei prototypes a model of the learning university to address global challenges.

Beyond academia, Taddei champions innovation in education through programs like the Frontières du Vivant degree and the Paris-Montagne Science Festival. His advocacy extends to international organizations, reflected in reports for UNESCO, the OECD, and the EU.

16:15: Panel discussion on the 4 themes of the UNOE network

▪ Moderator



Colin de la Higuera is a professor in Computer Science at Nantes University (France). He teaches and is a researcher in Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence. He has been the founding president of the SIF, the French Informatics Society and is currently a trustee of the Knowledge for All foundation. In 2021, UNESCO renewed the Chair he holds in “Open Educational Resources and Artificial Intelligence”.

▪ Community building



Mpine Makoe is the Executive Dean of the College of Education and a research professor at the University of South Africa (UNISA). She was a holder of the Commonwealth of Learning chair in Open Education Resources/Practices and the ICDE OER ambassador. She has worked on numerous commissioned ODL related research projects for UNESCO, CoL, British Council, the Council for Higher Education.

▪ Research



Associate Professor Glenda Cox works in the Centre for Innovation in Learning and Teaching (CILT: <http://www.cilt.uct.ac.za/>) at the University of Cape Town. She holds the UNESCO chair in Open Education and Social Justice (2021-2025) and is a member of the UNITWIN network on Open Education. She is on the editorial board of the International Journal of Students as Partners (joined in 2022). Associate Professor Cox is currently the Principal Investigator in the Digital Open Textbooks for Development (DOT4D) initiative.

▪ Education



Lilia Cheniti Belcadhi is associate professor and Researcher of Computer Sciences and e-learning at the Sousse University, Tunisia. She has been involved in several e-learning projects and co-authored the 1ST Computer Sciences MOOC in Tunisia, hosted on FUN. She led the e-learning department at her university and is currently coordinator of Pedagogical Innovation and Digital Learning Unit. She is OER Ambassador at ICDE and has been selected member of the International scientific advisory board of the Francophone Universities Agency and elected President of AUF Committee of Scientific and socio-economic experts in North Africa Region.

▪ Software



Tel Amiel is an adjunct professor at the School of Education at the University of Brasília (Brazil) where he coordinates the UNESCO Chair in Distance Education. He also teaches at the University of Nova Gorica (Slovenia) in the Master in Leadership in Open Education program. Co-founder of the Open Education Initiative an activist research group.

The Unitwin Network on Open Education

Unitwin Chairs and Networks are privileged instruments of UNESCO. Created in 1968, the Chairs system concerns an institution, while the networks correspond to a grouping of institutions.

The goals of the Unitwin Network on Open Education are:

- to support UNESCO led initiatives
- to identify the OE research agenda
- to raise funds
- to support the development of Open Education

The Unitwin Network for Open Education UNOE, includes 16 partners worldwide:

- Athabasca Univ. Canada
- Tecnológico de Monterrey, México

- Univ. de Brasilia, Brazil
- Univ. de la República, Uruguay
- Nantes Univ. France
- Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms Univ. Bonn, Germany
- IRCAI Center, Slovenia
- Jožef Stefan Institute, Slovenia
- Univ. Internacional de La Rioja (UNIR) Spain
- Univ. Mohammed V de Rabat, Morocco
- Univ. of Sousse, Tunisia
- Notre Dame University Louaize, Lebanon
- UNISA, Univ. of South Africa
- Univ. of Cape Town, South Africa
- OER Foundation, New-Zealand
- Te Pukenga, New-Zealand

Community building and support

1. To facilitate **community building** and training, strengthening the knowledge of all relevant actors in regards to Open Education and OERs.
2. To support teams in **countries that have limited engagement** with Open Education and OER.
3. To **cooperate** closely with UNESCO, existing UNESCO Chairs and academic institutions by engaging in **joint research** on issues of common interest, and ensuring that the academic outputs (i.e., academic conferences, meetings and events, training materials, research programs, curricula development, publications, etc.) feed into and advance UNESCO's related programmatic priorities in relation to OE/OER.

Research

1. To generate and circulate high-quality research documents in the field of Open Education.
2. To engage in shared research programs, with particular emphasis on mentoring activities, and contributions to common work.
3. To promote research initiatives and projects in the intersection between Open Science and Open Education.

Research foci

1. Critically examining and proposing activities focused on the future of higher education which includes investigating the many dimensions of openness (software, resources, licensing, participatory design, practice, hardware and the like) and their engagement with artificial intelligence, learning analytics, gamification, micro credentials among others, with a particular focus on a future research agenda for open education.
2. Capacity building by not only offering opportunities but investigating, through research designs, issues related to professional development, policy-building, partnerships, teamwork, community, and mentorship in the field of open education.
3. Social justice with an emphasis on gender equality, inclusion, participatory designs and co-creation, within a framework of humanist approaches.

Education

1. To share and cooperate on teaching programs, courses and educational materials related to Open Education, making them accessible to all.
2. To develop curricula and academic research that will contribute to increase awareness and to strengthen the adoption of Open Education principles, and in particular OER, in multiple languages.

Software

1. To develop, promote and make available free and open-source tools (FLOSS) for education.
2. To investigate the roles that artificial intelligence and crowdsourcing can play in the design, dissemination and usage of Open Education and OER.