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New FREE UNU-MERIT Book: ‘The Why and How of Open Education - With lessons from the openSE and openED Projects’

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News Release

The Collaborative Creativity Group CCG at UNU-MERIT has just released a book on ‘The Why and How of Open Education’. This introduction to Open Education (OE) gives practical guidance on the design and delivery of OE courses while wrestling with theoretical considerations of this new and emerging domain. Educators are the main targets, but it will also be relevant to policy makers, senior education managers and the learning industry as a whole.

The book draws from three sources: first from well-established online learning ecosystems, including Open Source Software communities; second from existing Open Courses in traditional formal education and related design models such as the Meta-design framework (Fischer, 2007); and third from EU funded research and pilot projects: FLOSSCom (2006-2008), openSE (2009-2011) and openED (2009-2012). This piloting work enabled a thorough analysis and modification of assumptions that emerged from sources one and two.

The first chapter provides a brief introduction to the OE field, addressing the question: ‘Why Open Education?’. The second chapter presents cases from the openSE and openED projects on how OE might look in practice. Sustainability is as important for OE as for traditional formal education, so before joining any kind of OE venture it is important to have a clear understanding of how such a venture might be sustained, as discussed in chapter three. Theoretical considerations and practical guidance for the design and delivery of OE are presented in chapter four, ahead of concluding remarks and future prospects in the fifth and final chapter.

This ‘Version 1.0’ of the book is released together with the start of the openED course on ‘Business and Management Competencies in a Web 2.0 world’, whose second edition begins on 26 April 2011. It is also published in parallel with the re-launch of the openSE website, which is an OE framework for computer science software engineering.

A ‘Version 2.0’, with more in-depth findings from the openSE and openED projects and general improvements, is tentatively scheduled for summer 2012. Anyone interested in co-authoring this ‘Version 2.0’, be it with minor improvements or major extensions, are invited to read the editable version of this book at the following link and to correct minor mistakes ‘on the fly’.

Download or read the Book in Version 1.0 online at:

- <http://www.scribd.com/doc/53332611/The-Why-And-How-Of-Open-Education-v-1-0>

Co-Author the Version 2.0 of the book and read the editable Version 1.0 at:

- <http://openedworld.flossproject.org/>

About UNU-MERIT

UNU-MERIT is a research and training centre of United Nations University (UNU) and Maastricht University (UM), based in southeast Netherlands, which explores the social, political and economic factors that drive technological innovation, with a focus on creation, diffusion and access to knowledge.

Following the integration of the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance in December 2010, the centre now covers all aspects of governance in domestic and global organizations, from risk assessment to policy analysis, design and evaluation.

In its enlarged form UNU-MERIT functions as a unique research centre and graduate school for over 80 PhD fellows and 100 Master's students, and as a UN think tank addressing a broad range of policy questions on science, innovation and governance.

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