

The EdReNe network has got a good start

The EdReNe - Educational Repositories Network - brings together web-based repositories of learning resources with content owners and other stakeholders within education in order to share, develop and document strategies, experiences, practices, solutions, advice, procedures etc. on the organisation, structuring and functionality of repositories.

EdReNe currently comprises 23 founding members and 7 associate members ([Member list](#)). The network invites new associate members.



[UNI•C](#) (Denmark), [EUN – European Schoolnet](#) (Europe), [EENET - European Expert's Network for Education and Technology](#) (Europe), [Menon Network](#) (Europe), [EDEN - European Distance and E-Learning Network](#) (Europe), [FWU - Institut für Film und Bild in Wissenschaft und Unterricht](#) (Germany), [EAPC - Public Administration School of Catalunya](#) (Spain), [TLF - Tiger Leap Foundation](#) (Estonia), [UNI-LJ-FMF, Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Uni. of Ljubljana](#) (Slovenia), [ITC - Centre of IT in Education](#) (Lithuania), [MSU - The Swedish National Agency for School Improvement](#) (Sweden), [ENIS Austria](#) (Austria), [NCTE –National Centre for Technology in Education](#) (Ireland)
[Kennisnet – Sticing Kennisnet Ict op School](#) (The Netherlands), [Becta - British Educational Communications and Technology Agency](#) (UK), [CNDP - Centre National de Documentation Pédagogique](#) (France), [Giunti Interactive Labs](#) (Italy), [BFU- Branche foreningen for undervisningsmidler](#) (Denmark), [bit media eLearning solutions](#) (Austria), [AIE - Associazione Italiana Editori](#) (Italy), [EduLearn](#) (Portugal), [sDae - Sociedad Digital De Autores Y Esitores](#) (Spain)
[IML - Umeå University Department of Interactive Media and Learning](#) (Sweden), [Utdanning.no](#) (Norway), [Utdanningsdirektoratet](#) (Norway), [VETAMIX](#) (Finland), [Lektion.se](#) (Sweden), [CTIE - Centre suisse des technologies de l'information dans l'enseignement](#) (Switzerland), [Intrallect](#) (UK), [SLO - the Netherlands Institute for Curriculum Development](#) (The Netherlands)

All members collaborate to provide the European community with more and better repositories of learning resources and to ensure wider use of existing ones.

The work of the EdReNe thematic network can be followed at the website edrene.org.

Read the [EdReNe information leaflet](#).

EdReNe's first year

The emphasis was on

- identifying, studying and prioritising issues
- identifying relevant stakeholders and engaging them
- discussing access and use

in relation to repositories of educational content.

See EdReNe's report [State of the Art of Educational Repositories in Europe](#).

EdReNe has arranged our first strategic seminar and the first series of expert workshops.

The Expert workshops will cover the themes:

- Repositories and resources, general level
- Standards and interoperability
- Engagement of producers and users - features and functionality, operational level
- Rights issues

The most important ingredient in seminars and workshops is the sharing of experiences, good and bad, among members. All have a central role in their national environment. Some members may be experts on some areas and novices on others. External experts are also invited to provide input to the events. Besides, meeting colleagues, who are active in the e.g. the educational content industry or national policy making, generates spin-offs for collaboration in other forums outside the EdReNe scope.

[Kick-off strategic seminar](#) [11- 13 June 2007, Naples, Italy](#)



At the kick-off seminar members met for the first time. 37 representatives of 24 members and associated members participated. They got to know one another as everybody presented their background, and introduced their work on educational repositories together with the relevant national strategies. Then they identified and prioritised concrete topics for further discussion and work at the first series of expert workshop.

You may want to join the next strategic seminar, [9 - 11 June in Lisbon, Portugal?](#)

WS 5.1 – Engagement of producers and users, operational level
2 – 3 October 2007, Aarhus, Denmark



34 representatives from 20 members participated. The workshop was organised as a mix of *Show and tell* sessions, and *Pattern presentation and question* sessions. During the Show and tell sessions members and external experts demonstrated repositories and tools, and presented lessons learned and planned features.

For this workshop series members prioritised:

- User feedback: evaluations, reviews, collaborative filtering, tagging/qualifying metadata
- Web 2.0 and repositories? (shared queries, social bookmarking, tagging...)
- Building your own content from repository resources (allowing teachers to combine content from different producers)
- Ensuring ease of use (usability, wizards, help and support)
- My repository - the need for personalization (profiles, reviews, collections...)

Becta presented its Vocabulary Management Service. University of Ljubljana stressed the need for repository editors and gave possible solutions. UNI•C assures quality of metadata by screening teacher materials. utdanning.no uses Drupal.org as a framework for publishing and meta-tagging learning resources, and CNDP plans online content metadata generation.

EUN presented research findings on the *Analysis of browse and search strategies of teachers*, and *Teachers' multilingual tagging behaviour*.

In the Pattern group sessions members discussed how to ensure *ease of use*, and learned about identifying *repository design patterns*, based on a number of concrete examples.

WS 3.1 – Repository strategies, general level
4 – 5 December 2007, Brussels, Belgium



37 representatives of 22 members participated. At the workshop the EUN, Kennisnet and University of Ljubljana presented experiences on the theme *Connecting and cooperating with existing repositories*.

Under the heading *Identifying successful policy actions*, utdanning.no described the Norwegian governmental service oriented repository strategy, and sDAE linked policy and business models.

Lisa Petrides, OER Commons, was invited as an external expert to tell about OER Commons projects.

The group sessions had two headlines: *Quality assurance* and *Repositories in a Google world*. In the first sessions members discussed quality control strategies to ensure high quality content in repositories (partly based on the questionnaire provided by the Quality For Reuse project - www.q4r.org).

In the second round members discussed the present and future role of Google in education and (national) repositories in a world with Google's many features and dominance.

For this workshop series members prioritised:

- Quality assurance strategies (editorial policies, technical quality assurance)
- Connecting and cooperating with existing repositories
- What are the additional benefits of repositories in a Google world
- Identifying successful policy actions (government support, public-private partnerships)
- Metadata only or content repository? Pros and cons of hosting content
- Sustainability of a repository in the long term
- Barriers to cooperation and interoperability = Language?

WS 4.1 – Standards and interoperability 8 – 9 January 2008, London, United Kingdom



For this workshop series members prioritised:

- Metadata standards (application profiles, strategies for vocabularies, curriculum mapping)
- Providing best practice examples of the use of standards with proven benefits - and examples not to follow
- Facilitating exchange of metadata across repositories and exchange between repositories and VLE/LMS

42 representatives of 21 members participated. The actual workshop mixed presentations and *Tool try-out* sessions:

- The EUN presented the work done in the [IMS Learning Object Discovery and Exchange group](#).
- Members from Lithuania, the UK, the Netherlands, Italy, Germany and Catalonia/Spain presented national and regional approaches to Learning Object Metadata application profiles.
- Intrallect presented an example of integration between a content repository and a Learning Management System.
- In the Tool sessions participants created metadata and exported/imported Learning Objects to/from VLE/LMS.
- Becta also raised the issue of standards for educational content for Interactive Whiteboards, and invited members to support and join this initiative.

WS 6.1 – Rights issues
4 – 5 March 2008, Ljubljana, Slovenia



34 representatives from 19 members participated. The workshop agenda featured a mix between interactive group sessions and presentations from members and external experts:

- Mindmapping session exploring the current practise of repositories in relation to rights issues and identifying the most important focus points.
- Matthias Klang (legal lead Creative Commons, Sweden) led an Ask the expert session to clarify questions from members and point to best practise examples.
- Group based discussion session (documented via Members Zone forum) on what guidance should be provided to teachers when using or depositing digital content from/in repositories. Focus was on establishing knowledge on current practise and how, when and where information should be presented in order to be most effective.
- Presentations by members and external experts are available from the Members Zone. A number of the presentations will

For this workshop series members prioritised:

- Providing guidelines for users/teachers/producers
- Rights management (Digital Rights Management, Creative Commons, Protection of rights, Identity management...)
- Rights clearance practices
- Strategies for providing copyright cleared material for education

also be publicly available as streamed video presentations from the EdReNe website at the end of March 2008:

- Digital Technology and Legal Challenges to Copyright (Maja Bogataj Jančič, IPI -Intellectual Property Institute, Slovenia)
- Rights Management and Educational Repositories (Charles Duncan, Intrallect)
- Creative Commons Licenses (Maja Lubarda, Creative Commons Slovenia)
- Digital Rights Management in the educational sector (Paul Sire, sDAE)
- Take, Shape, Share - European Repository Project (Albert de Vos, TSS project manager)
- Examples on the use of licensing schemes (Trond Hanssen, utdanning.no)
- Open educational resource community LeMill - Copyright Issues (Hans Põldoja, TLF)

March 2008, [Leo Højsholt-Poulsen](#), UNI•C, EdReNe coordinator