European Schoolnet Learning Resource Exchange (LRE) Subcommittee

CALL FOR WHITEPAPER CONSULTANCY: TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Learning Resource Exchange Subcommittee (LRE Subcommittee) of European Schoolnet is a group of European Ministries of Education and other organisations. The LRE Subcommittee promotes and supports the creation, discovery, exchange, and (re)use of Open Educational Resources (OER) and Open Educational Practices. It is open to regional and local education authorities and private for-profit and non-profit organisations that wish to utilise LRE services and take advantage of available benefits. Members participate in European and international projects investigating the impact and best practices of OERs. To foster networking opportunities, the LRE Subcommittee collaborates closely with EdReNe, a network of European repository nodes and stakeholders dedicated to the development of recommendations and exchange of expertise. Together these two networks participate in face-to-face meetings and online seminars which provide opportunities for members to keep up-to-date on the latest developments in the field and learn about new and ongoing initiatives across Europe.

As part of its activities, the LRE Subcommittee wishes to work with an independent expert who will survey and review best practices and technologies used, or proposed for use, by learning repositories to more effectively engage educators in providing structured feedback, based on well-defined quality criteria, with the overall objective of assisting all teachers to successfully integrate digital learning resources in their everyday teaching practices.

Description of Work:

This short piece of work will draw on the existing expertise of the consultant related to the evaluation of OER quality and techniques proposed or already in use among learning repositories that support educators in integrating digital learning resources into their teaching practices at the K-12 level. Broadly, the expert should provide a review and recommendations on quality criteria (either already in use or based on current pedagogical research literature) and user feedback systems that are most effective in closing the gap between OERs, proposed by repositories, and their actual use in classrooms. In particular, this paper should describe established good practices for educational repositories that have scoring systems and feedback mechanisms based on well-founded quality criteria with a focus on systems that capture user feedback on OERs. This work will require desk research.

Deliverables:

The study is expected to produce the following outcomes:

1. A 25-page whitepaper (not including the bibliography) summarising the main results of the study and

2. The presentation of these results by the expert during an EdReNe webinar.

The whitepaper will cover at least the following:

- A brief overview of learning resource quality criteria and ranking systems

- Key examples of implementations of these ranking systems that capture user feedback on OERs

- Challenges faced by K12 educational repositories that have implemented ranking systems based on user feedback and the solutions adopted by repositories that address challenges;

- An evaluation of the effectiveness of different types of quality criteria for structuring feedback and ranking systems that support teachers in using digital learning resources in the classroom;

- A comprehensive bibliography referencing relevant readings and studies that can be used in selecting, developing or implementing quality criteria and ranking systems that effectively exploit user feedback for evaluating and using OERs.

Two versions of the whitepaper will be produced:

1. A complete draft will be produced two months after the start of the project and circulated to LRE members to check that the work is aligned with the brief provided and the expectations of the LRE Subcommittee;

2. A final version will be delivered one month later that addresses the feedback received by the consultant after the first draft.

Finally, the consultant will provide a PowerPoint presentation summarising the whitepaper and present the results of their work during a one-hour EdReNe webinar organised as soon as possible after the delivery of the final version of the whitepaper.

Fee:
European Schoolnet can offer a fee of €3,000 for this work payable on completion of the EdReNe webinar. In case the consultant cannot carry out the assignment in full, the fee will be revised accordingly.

Timetable for work:
October – December 2019/January 2020

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