

## European Schoolnet Learning Resource Exchange (LRE) Subcommittee

### CALL FOR WHITEPAPER CONSULTANCY: TERMS OF REFERENCE

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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 to identify and analyse online teacher communities, their practices in sharing content and their relationship to emerging technologies, especially in the context of COVID-19. This work will involve an exploration of how online teacher community ecosystems develop, adapt, and evolve and how and why teachers share materials and best practices. The expert will leverage European Schoolnet Future Classroom Lab's ambassador network to identify local teacher communities in a variety of European countries. The expert will coordinate this work with the ambassadors, compile their findings, analyse them, and provide recommendations for repository owners who want to foster online teacher communities and facilitate the sharing of their online resource between teachers.

#### Description of work:

This short piece of work will draw on the existing expertise of the consultant related to online teacher communities in Europe.

Repository owners want to invest more in networks of teachers who leverage emerging technologies to actively share educational resources and best practices. However, building robust communities of teachers is challenging. This white paper should explore issues such as:

- How do online teacher communities start and what factors contribute to their resilience?
- What are the factors that enable the adoption of emerging technologies in these communities?
- How has the COVID-19 context changed these communities and what can repository owners learn from these developments?

- What is the answer to the community management paradox: A community must grow and maintain itself spontaneously and bottom-up, but without management and moderation communities die out?
- Does a community have to be local?
- How big or small should a community be?
- Do successful communities start and persist around a topic, an educational level, a geographical location?

The work should also include examples of resources widely shared within the various teacher communities that have been identified.

### **Deliverables:**

The study is expected to produce the following outcomes:

1. Preparation and coordination of the Future Classroom Lab ambassadors who will identify and document online teacher communities in their respective countries.
2. A 25-page whitepaper (not including a list of resources widely shared by teachers) summarising the main results of the study and
3. The presentation of these results by the expert during an EdReNe webinar.

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:**

September – November 2020

### **Contact:**

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