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Open Educators Factory
State of the art & developments

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UNIR iTED

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La Universidad en Internet

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Behind OEF: UNIR iTED

Research Institute of Innovation &Technology in Education at Universidad Internacional de la Rioja (UNIR), established in 2016 (http://ited.unir.net)

Linked to UNESCO, ICDE, EDEN, OEC.

Working on: Adaptive and Collaborative Learning, Learning analytics, Digital multimedia and interactive contents, educational games, Multiplatform and multi-device learning resources and methods, eLearning standards, social learning and learning networks, ubiquitous learning, visual environments for user model authoring, use implementation and evaluation of ICTs in the classroom.

Open Education is at the core of the UNIR strategy (probably, the first private open university with an Open Education policy).

Rationale: why this research

The victory of Open Education (Weller 2014)

- Policy: EC, ICDE, UNESCO all agree that OE is the way to go
- Institutions: open initiatives in more and more universities
- >350 institutions offering MOOCs

vs

The power of the Status Quo

- Frontal teaching is often still the norm
- OER are in an eternal “experimentation phase”
- The MOOCs hype is settling down

Why change is so slow? What do we need?

We need a peaceful army of Open Educators.

Educators (professors, tutors, lecturers) are not driving the change towards Openness.

They must transform from **agents of resistance** into **agents of change**.

This means re-imagining their role from the **owners of knowledge** to **critical friends, co-travellers, mediators, facilitators**.

The OEF research

1. Explore concept of “Open Educator” along all its components, and propose a new definition

2. Design, build and test a tool that can contribute to transform HE teachers into Open Educators, from agents of resistance into agents of change

Research activities

1. Literature review
2. Experts interviews
3. Platform building
4. Pilot
5. Analysis

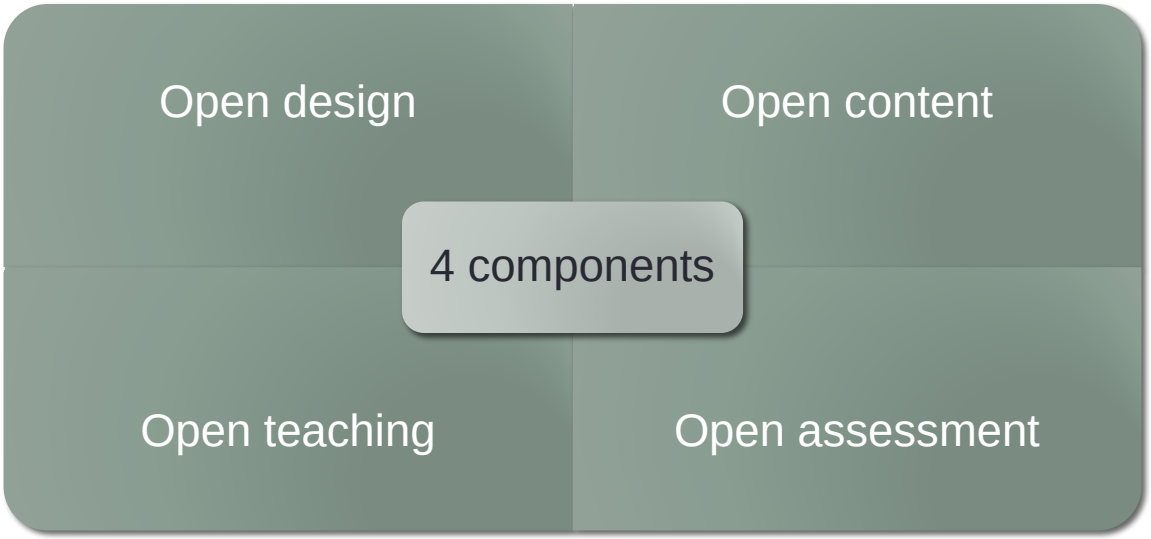
Main results

1. Definition of Open Educator
2. Framework for Open Educators' capacity development
3. OEF Platform (EN, FR, ES, IT, PT)
4. Paper in IRRODL, two more paper under evaluation, 6 presentations in conferences, blogposts etc.

First, the Open Educator definition

An Open Educator choses to use open approaches, when possible and appropriate, with the aim to remove all unnecessary barriers to learning.

He/she works through an open online identity and relies on online social networking to enrich and implement her work, understanding that collaboration bears a responsibility towards the work of others.

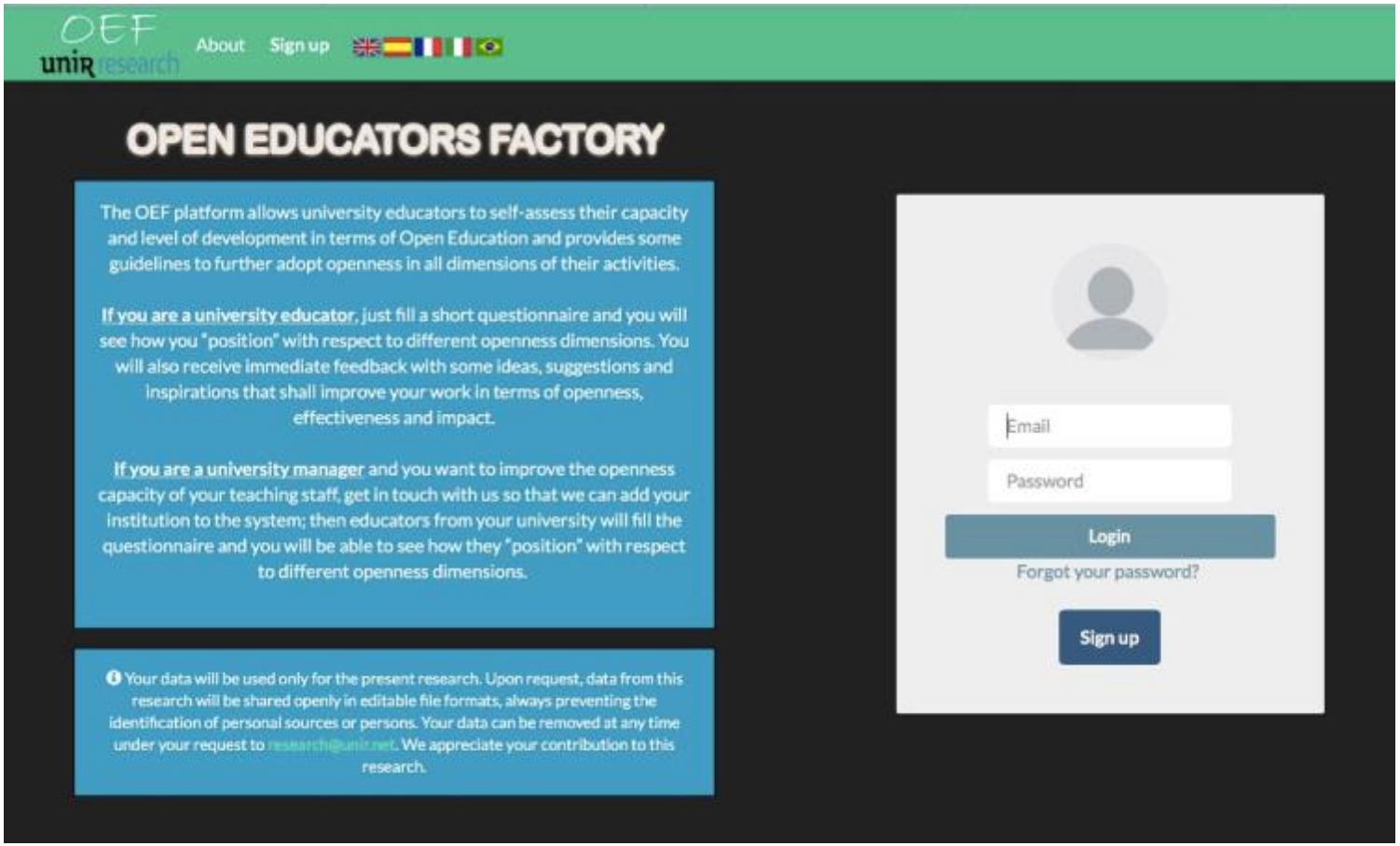


Second, the OEF framework

COLLABORATION

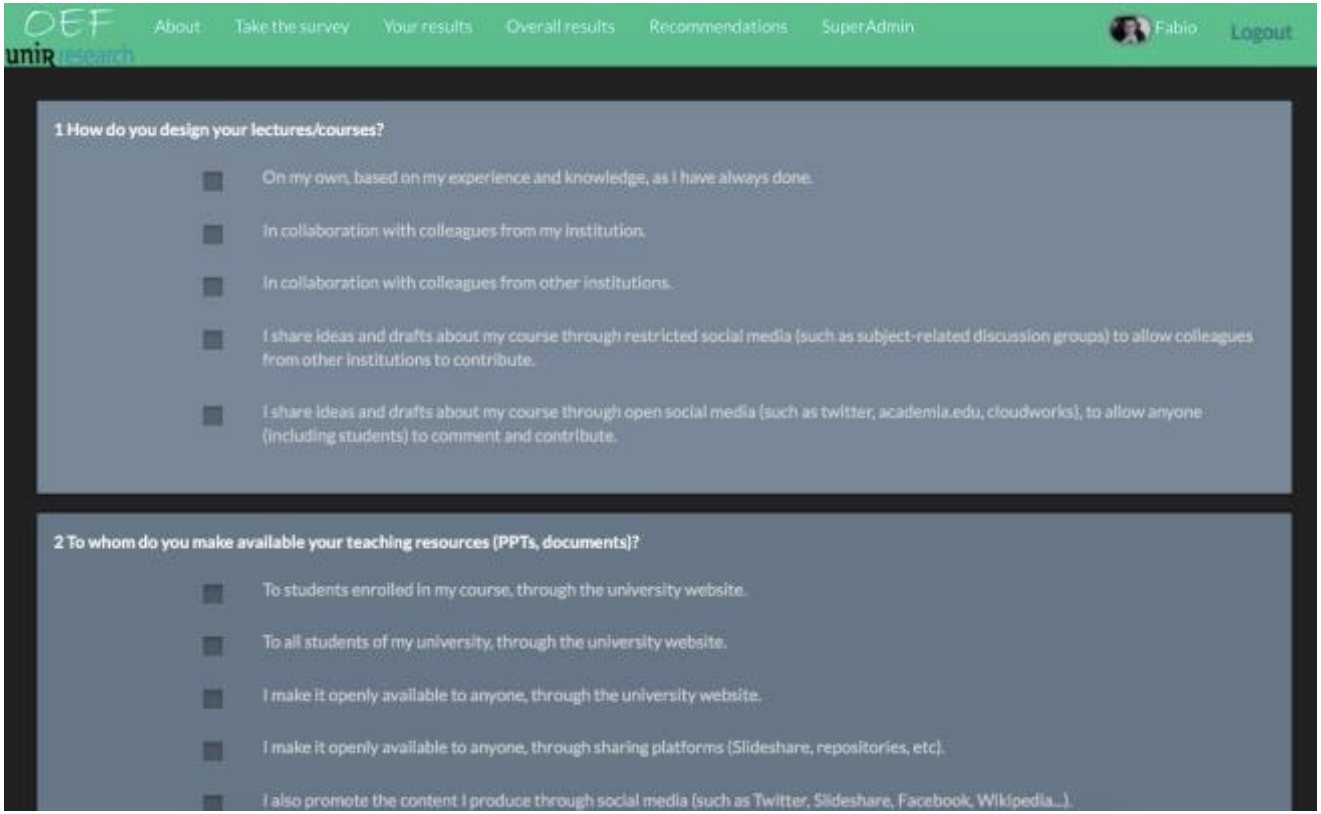
Design	Content	Teaching	Assessment
Open designer	OER specialist	Open teacher	Open evaluator
Collaborative designer	OER user	Engaging teacher	Innovative evaluator
Individual designer	New to OER	Traditional teacher	Traditional evaluator

Third, the OEF platform



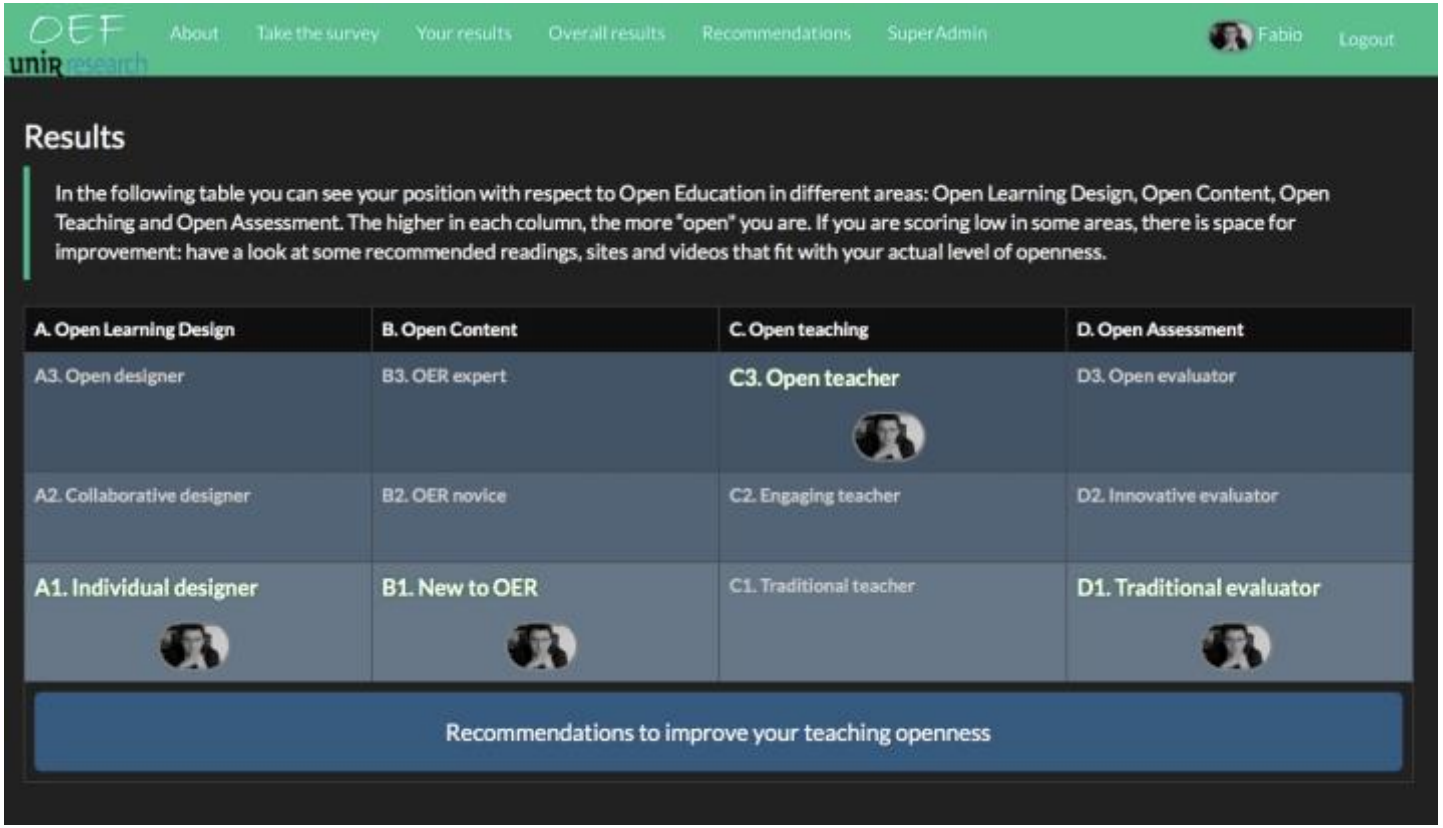
The platform for teachers (1)

By filling a short questionnaire…



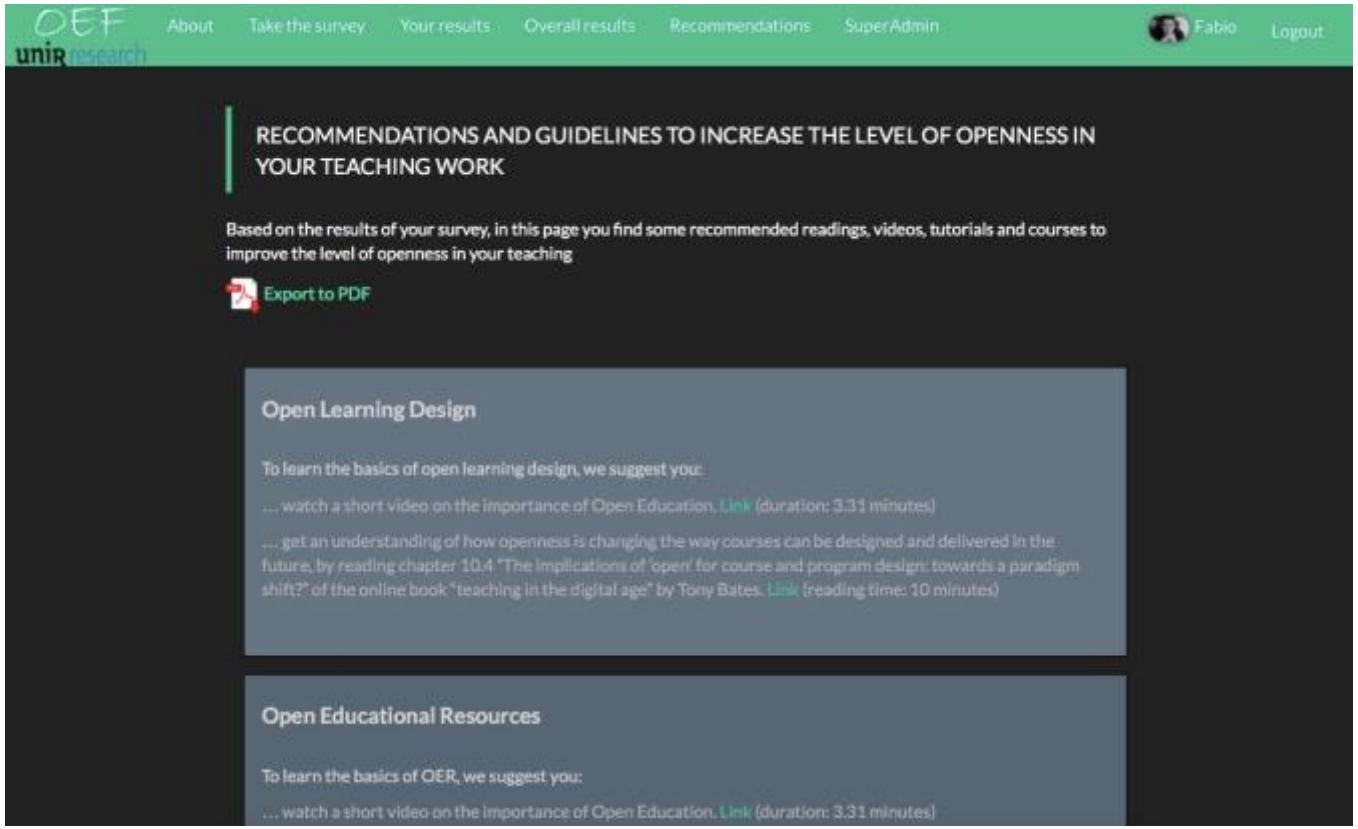
The OEF platform for teachers (2)

…the teacher is “positioned” in the different columns…



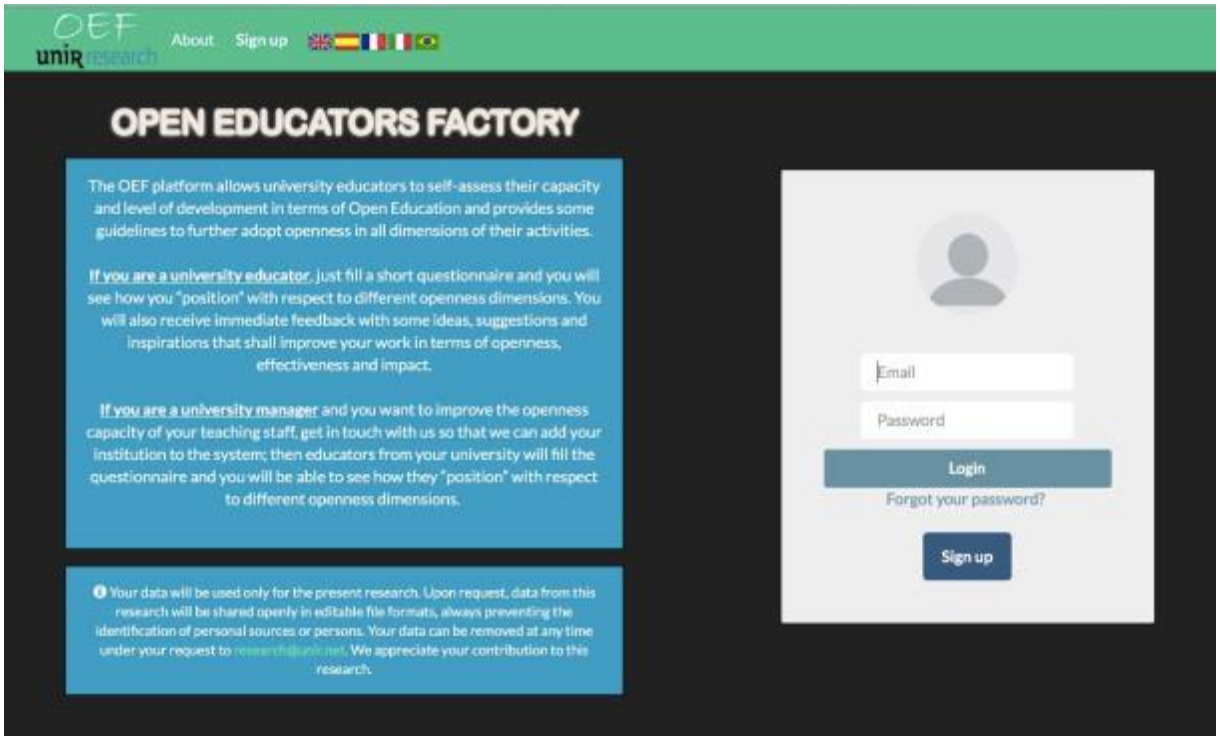
The OEF platform for teachers (3)

…receives tailored guidelines…



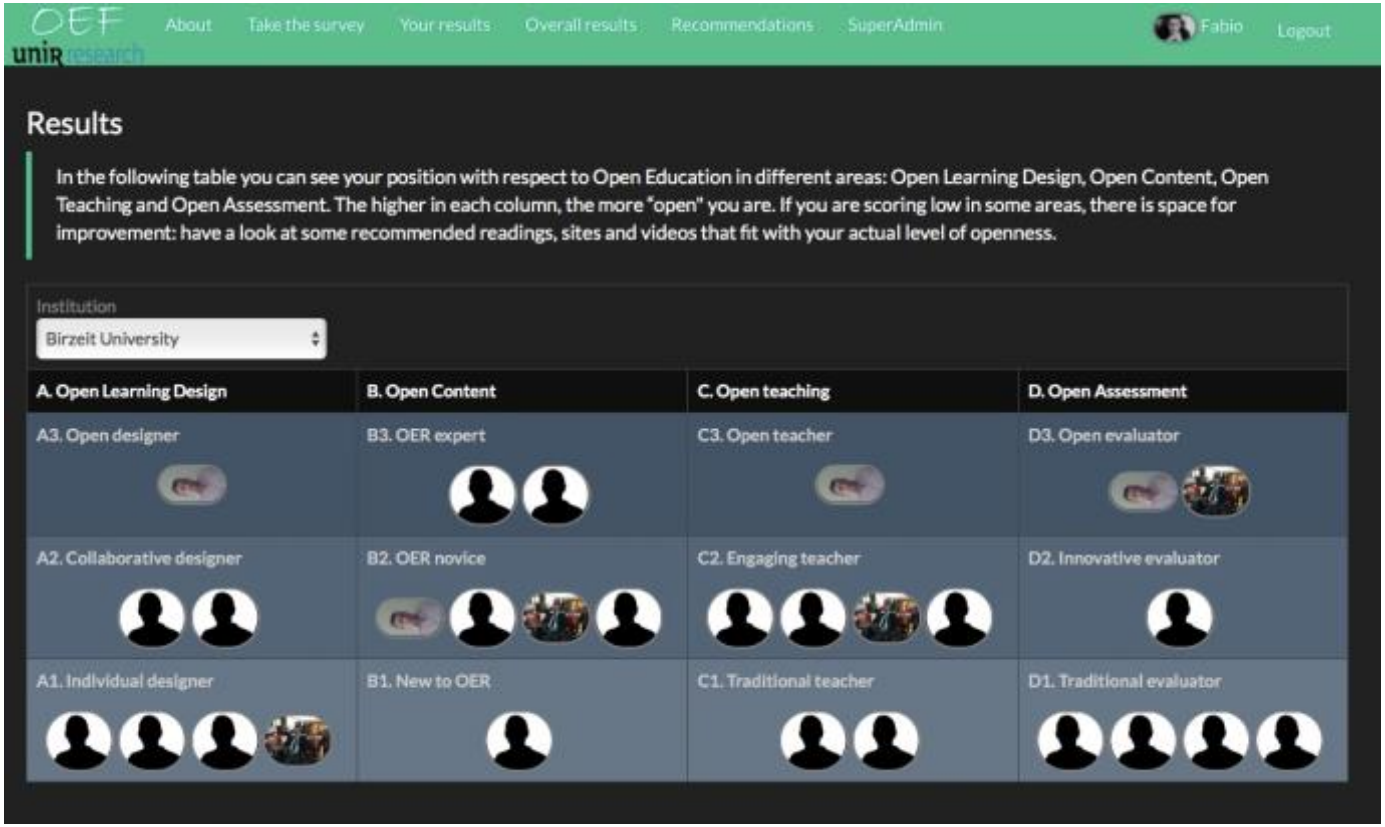
The OEF platform for teachers (4)

…and can go back to check his/her progresses.



The OEF platform for HE leaders

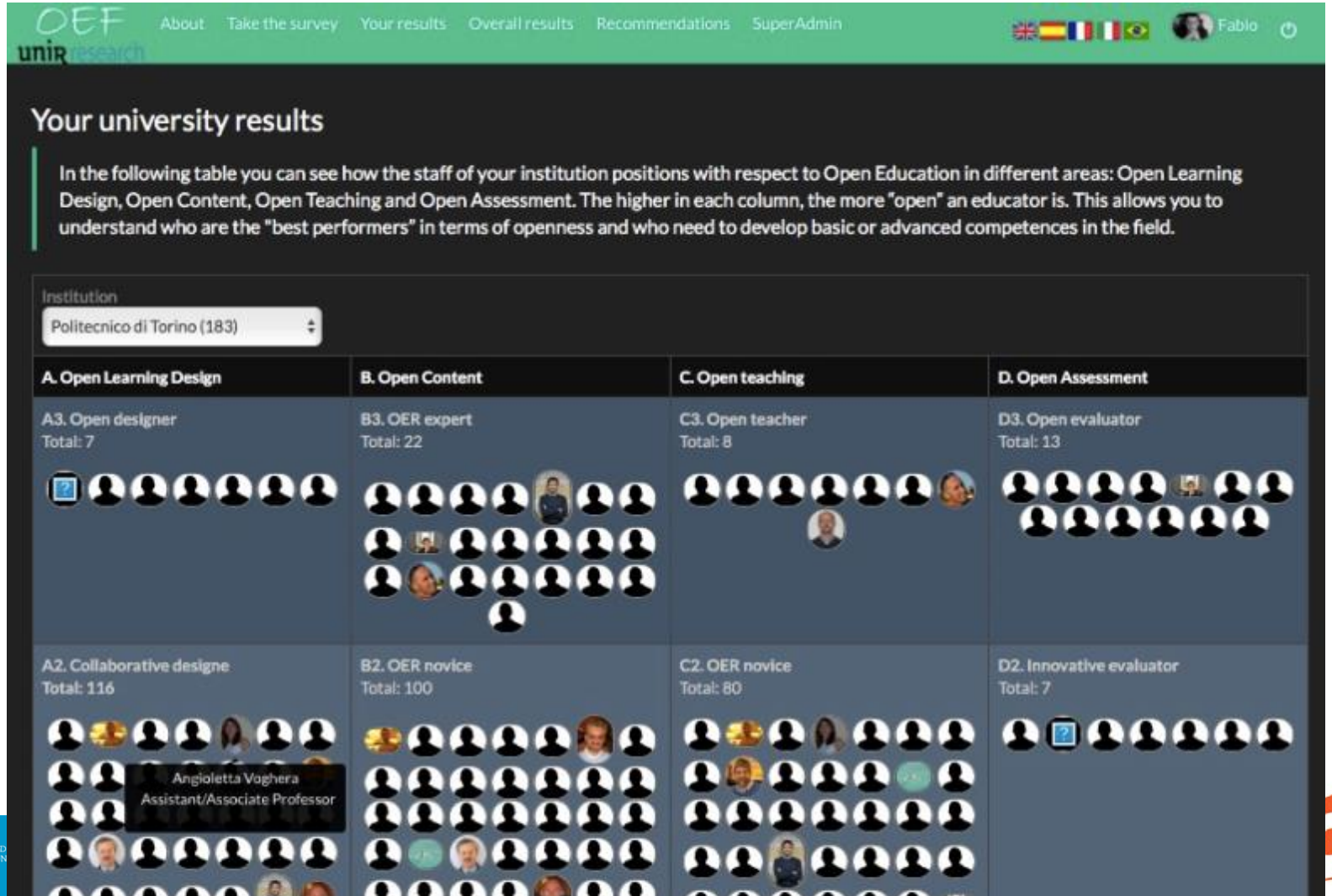
Provides an overview of openness across faculty



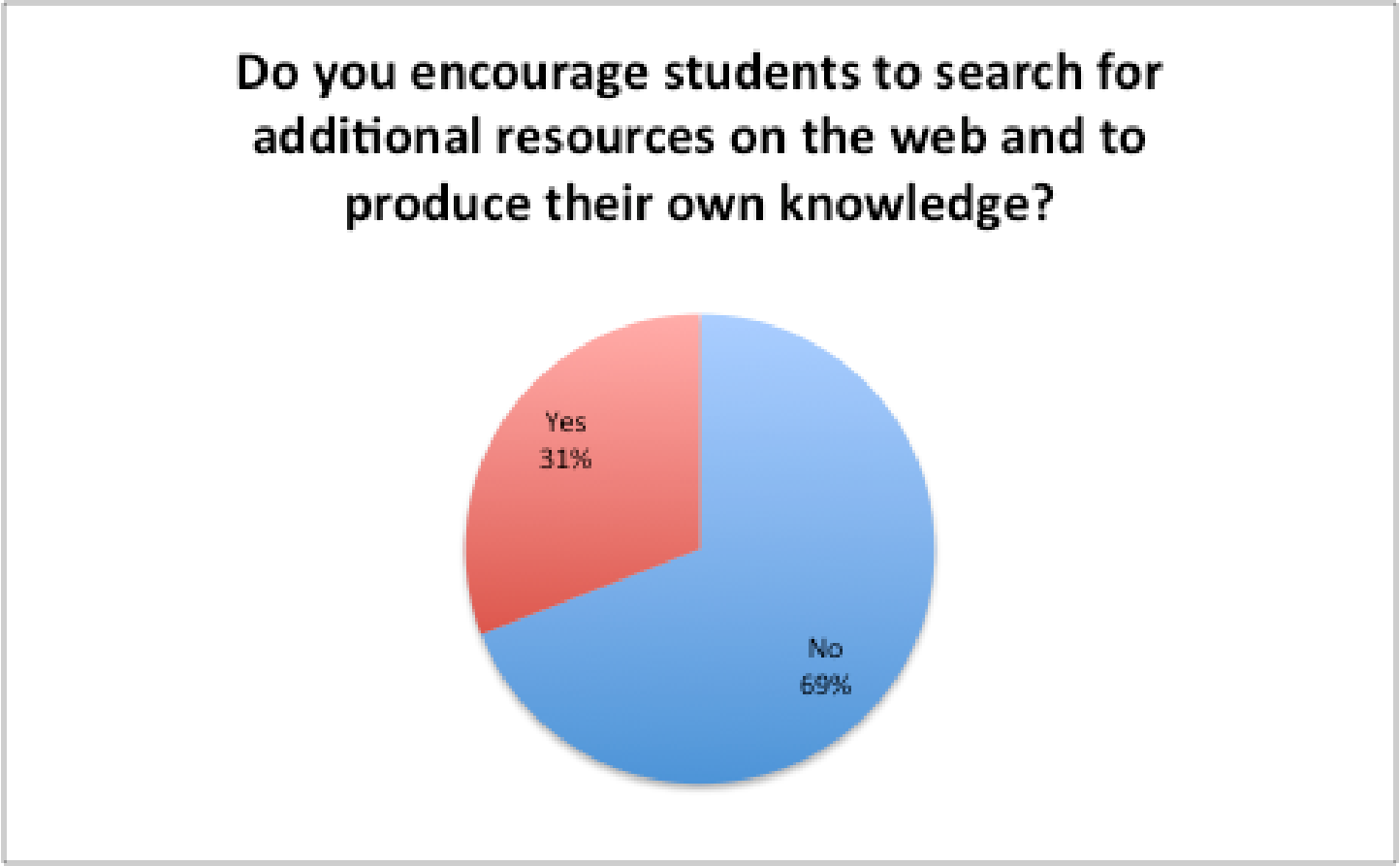
Pilot results

- Pilot held at Politecnico di Torino, Italy
- 200+ replies to the questionnaire
- Caveat: this is a technical university

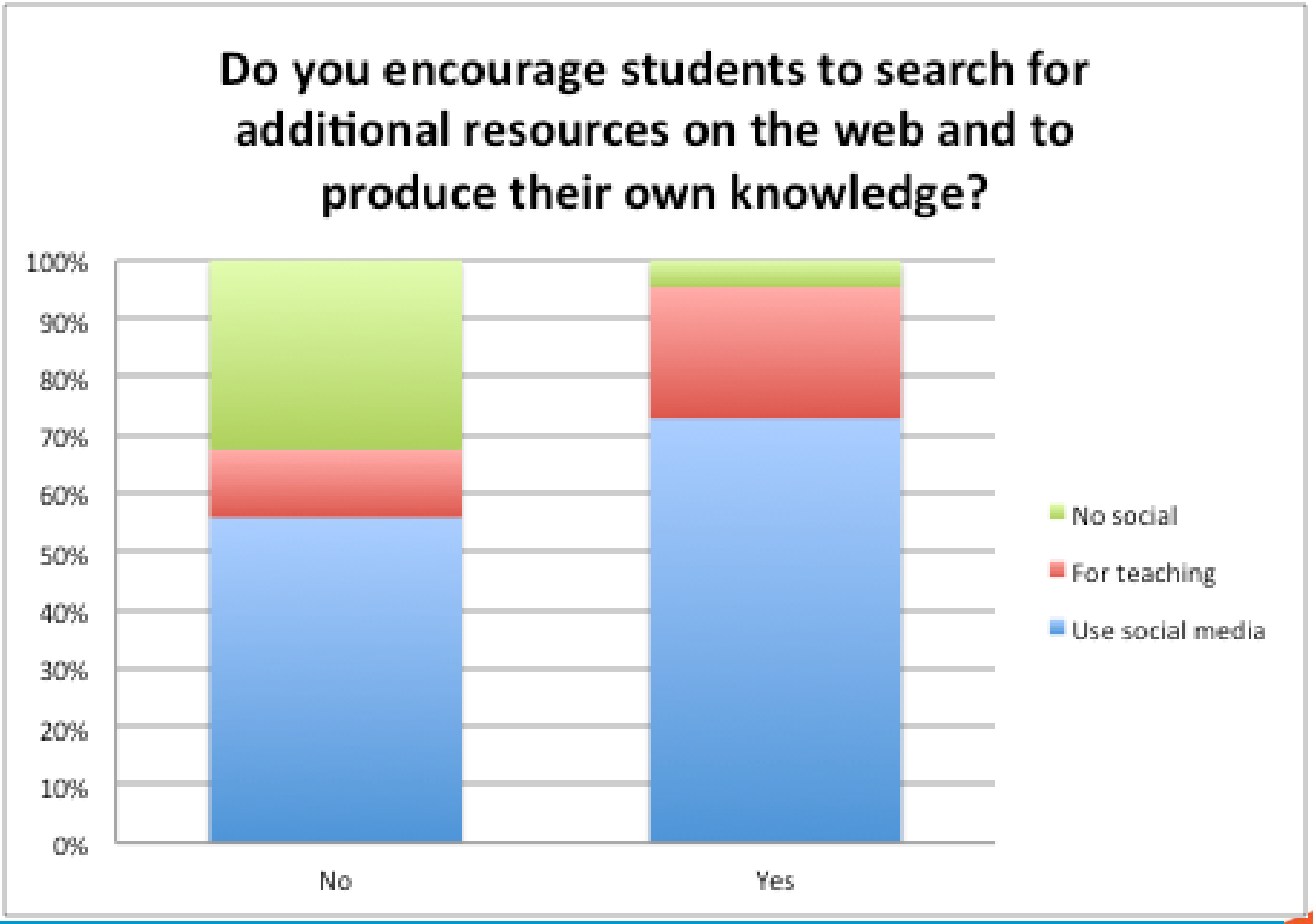
A picture of openness capacity in the university



First findings



First findings



General findings

1. Openness has many “entry points”
2. Added value for both educators and managers
3. Importance of leadership recognition for peer learning
4. The relation between Openness and Collaboration is clear

So cool. But:

1. Each teacher is different
2. Institutional context matters
3. Terminology is important
4. Teachers might tend to “over-rate” their openness

Future of the project…

1. Foster the use the OEF platform: the more data we get, the more useful the tool will be for the community

2. Translate the platform into other languages (RU, CH)

3. Next research phase on relation between Openness and Collaboration, investigating the impact of Open Culture (sharing) on teaching practices: *“If you cannot convince teachers to be open, teach them how to network!”*

This is an open research project

http://wikieducator.org/Research/open_educators_factory

unirited

http://rd.unir.net/pub/oef

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