



Open Educators Factory

State of the art & developments

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UNIR iTED

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La Universidad en Internet

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.

unirited

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**.

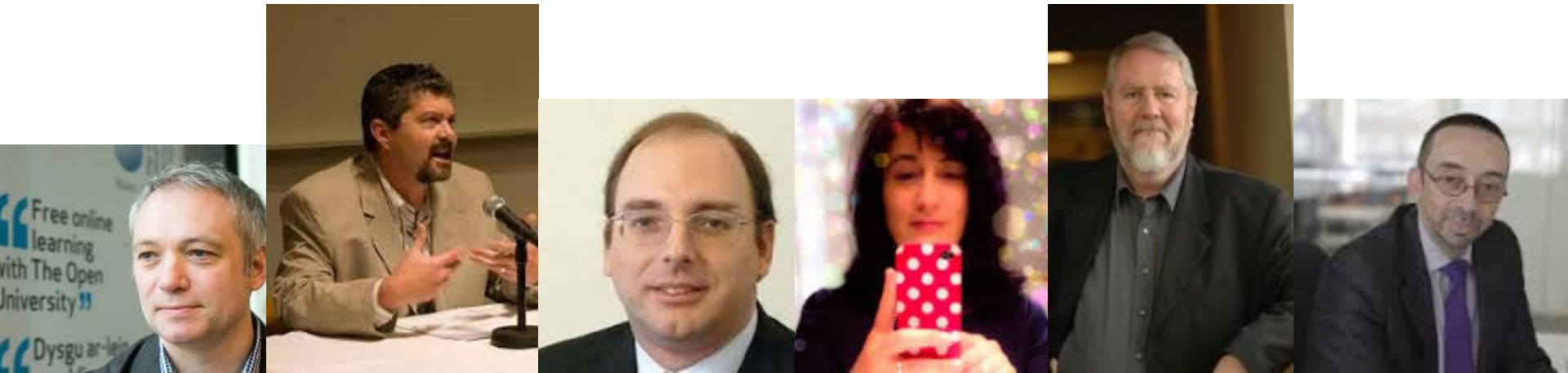
The OEF research

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



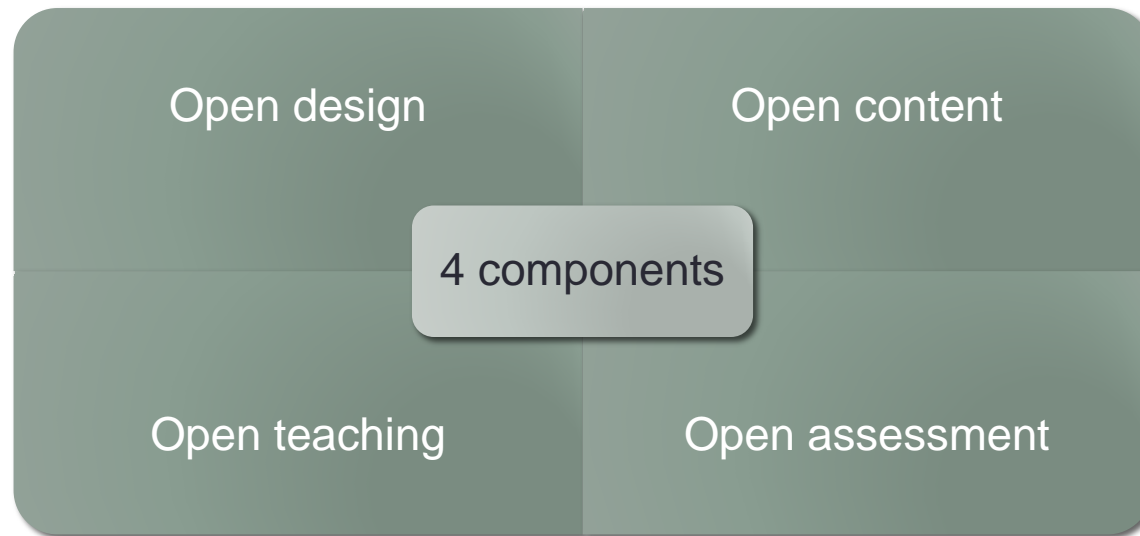
Main results

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 chooses 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



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 screenshot displays the OEF platform interface. At the top left, the logo 'OEF unir research' is visible, with 'unir' in a larger font. To the right of the logo are links for 'About' and 'Sign up', followed by flags for the United Kingdom, Spain, France, and Brazil. The main heading is 'OPEN EDUCATORS FACTORY' in large, bold, white letters on a dark background.

The central content area is divided into two main sections. The left section, on a blue background, contains the following text:

The OEF platform allows university educators to self-assess their capacity and level of development in terms of Open Education and provides some guidelines to further adopt openness in all dimensions of their activities.

If you are a university educator, just fill a short questionnaire and you will see how you "position" with respect to different openness dimensions. You will also receive immediate feedback with some ideas, suggestions and inspirations that shall improve your work in terms of openness, effectiveness and impact.

If you are a university manager and you want to improve the openness capacity of your teaching staff, get in touch with us so that we can add your institution to the system; then educators from your university will fill the questionnaire and you will be able to see how they "position" with respect to different openness dimensions.

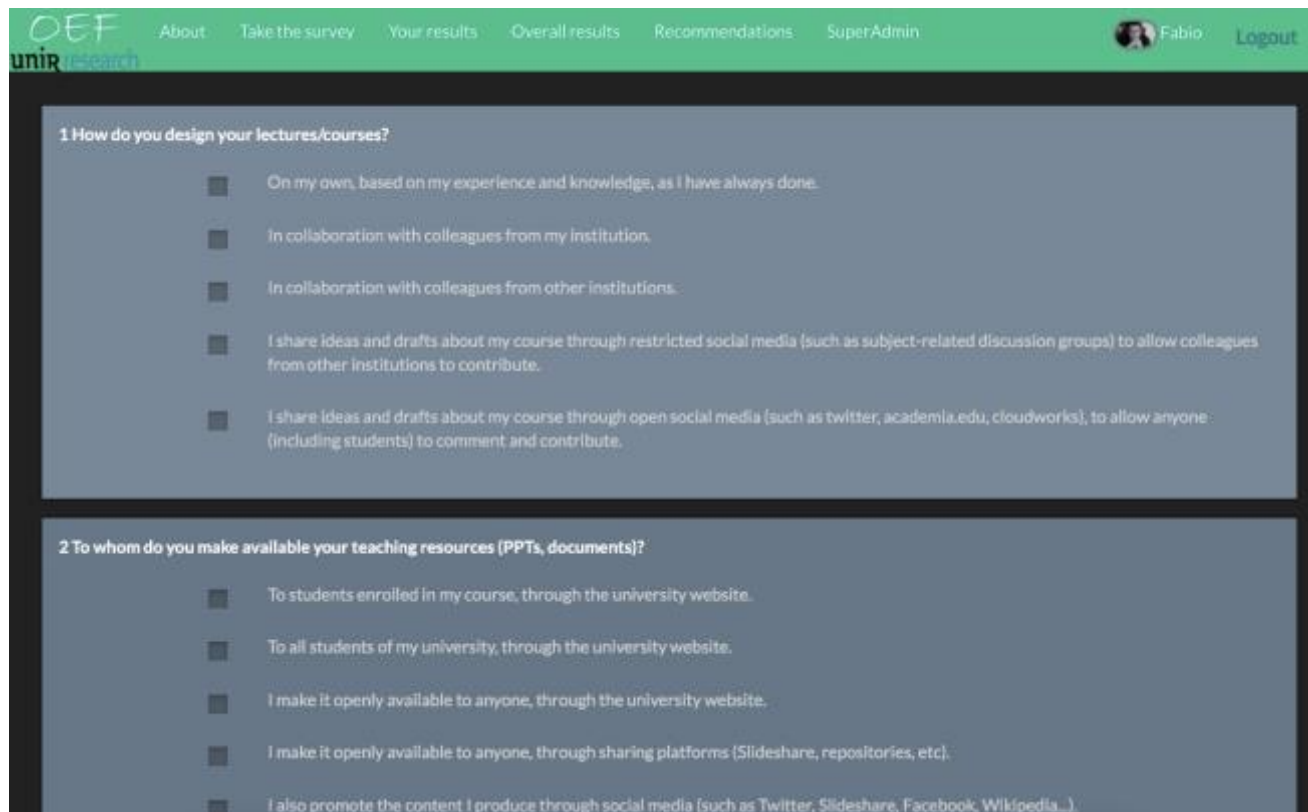
The right section, on a light gray background, is a login form. It features a circular profile icon placeholder, an 'Email' input field, a 'Password' input field, a blue 'Login' button, a link for 'Forgot your password?', and a blue 'Sign up' button.

At the bottom of the main content area, there is a blue box with a white information icon and the following text:

Your data will be used only for the present research. Upon request, data from this research will be shared openly in editable file formats, always preventing the identification of personal sources or persons. Your data can be removed at any time under your request to research@unir.net. We appreciate your contribution to this research.

The platform for teachers (1)

By filling a short questionnaire...



The screenshot shows a web interface for a questionnaire. At the top, there is a green navigation bar with the logo 'unir' and 'DEF' on the left, and a menu with items: 'About', 'Take the survey', 'Your results', 'Overall results', 'Recommendations', and 'SuperAdmin'. On the right side of the navigation bar, there is a user profile picture and the name 'Fabio', along with a 'Logout' button.

The main content area is divided into two sections, each with a question and a list of radio button options:

1 How do you design your lectures/courses?

- On my own, based on my experience and knowledge, as I have always done.
- In collaboration with colleagues from my institution.
- In collaboration with colleagues from other institutions.
- I share ideas and drafts about my course through restricted social media (such as subject-related discussion groups) to allow colleagues from other institutions to contribute.
- I share ideas and drafts about my course through open social media (such as twitter, academia.edu, cloudworks), to allow anyone (including students) to comment and contribute.

2 To whom do you make available your teaching resources (PPTs, documents)?

- To students enrolled in my course, through the university website.
- To all students of my university, through the university website.
- I make it openly available to anyone, through the university website.
- I make it openly available to anyone, through sharing platforms (Slideshare, repositories, etc).
- I also promote the content I produce through social media (such as Twitter, Slideshare, Facebook, Wikipedia...)





The OEF platform for teachers (2)

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

The screenshot shows the OEF platform interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links: About, Take the survey, Your results, Overall results, Recommendations, and SuperAdmin. The user's name, Fabio, and a Logout button are visible on the right. The main content area is titled "Results" and contains an introductory paragraph explaining the table below. The table has four columns: A. Open Learning Design, B. Open Content, C. Open teaching, and D. Open Assessment. Each column has three levels: A3, A2, A1; B3, B2, B1; C3, C2, C1; and D3, D2, D1. The teacher's current position is indicated by a profile picture in the C3 cell. Below the table is a blue box with the text "Recommendations to improve your teaching openness".

Results

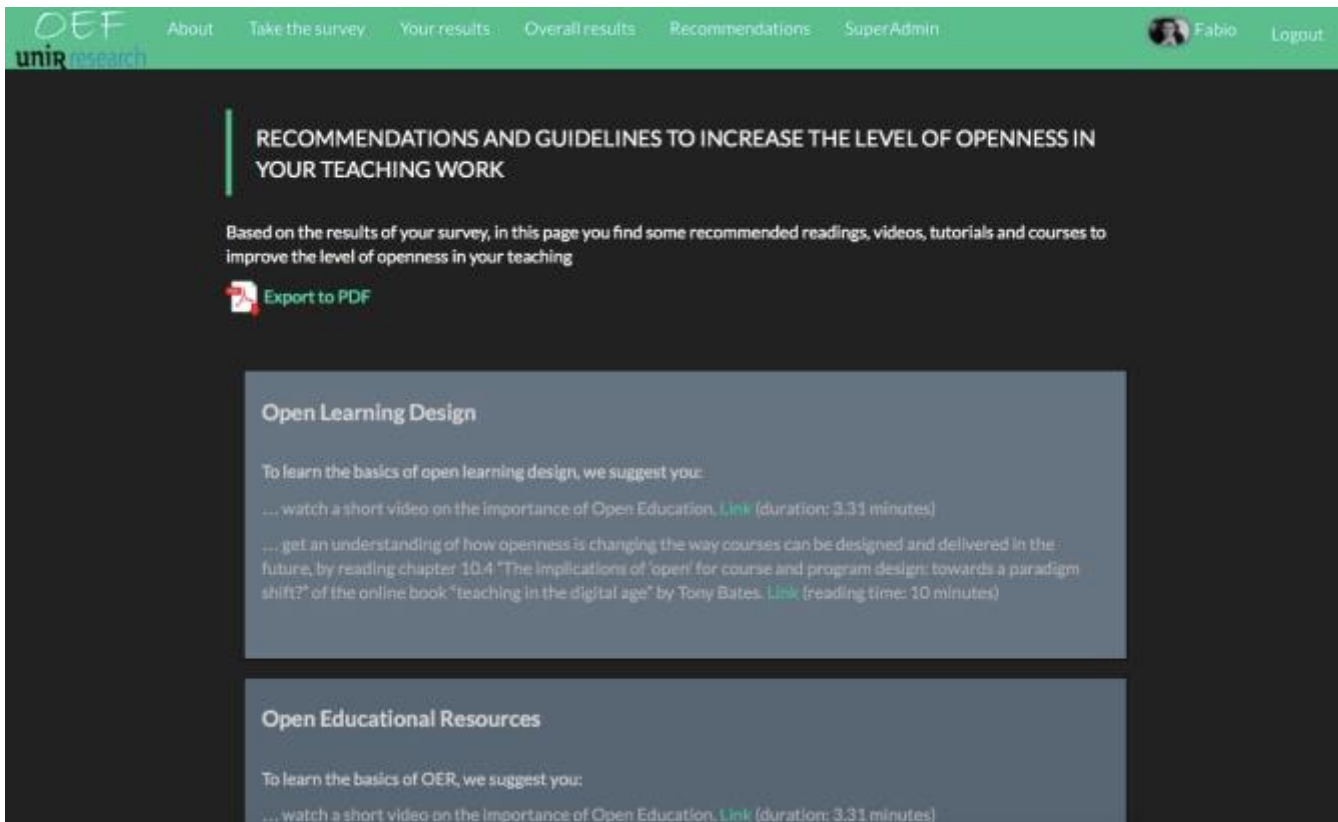
In the following table you can see your position with respect to Open Education in different areas: Open Learning Design, Open Content, Open Teaching and Open Assessment. The higher in each column, the more “open” you are. If you are scoring low in some areas, there is space for improvement: have a look at some recommended readings, sites and videos that fit with your actual level of openness.

A. Open Learning Design	B. Open Content	C. Open teaching	D. Open Assessment
A3. Open designer	B3. OER expert	C3. Open teacher 	D3. Open evaluator
A2. Collaborative designer	B2. OER novice	C2. Engaging teacher	D2. Innovative evaluator
A1. Individual designer 	B1. New to OER 	C1. Traditional teacher	D1. Traditional evaluator 

Recommendations to improve your teaching openness

The OEF platform for teachers (3)

...receives tailored guidelines...



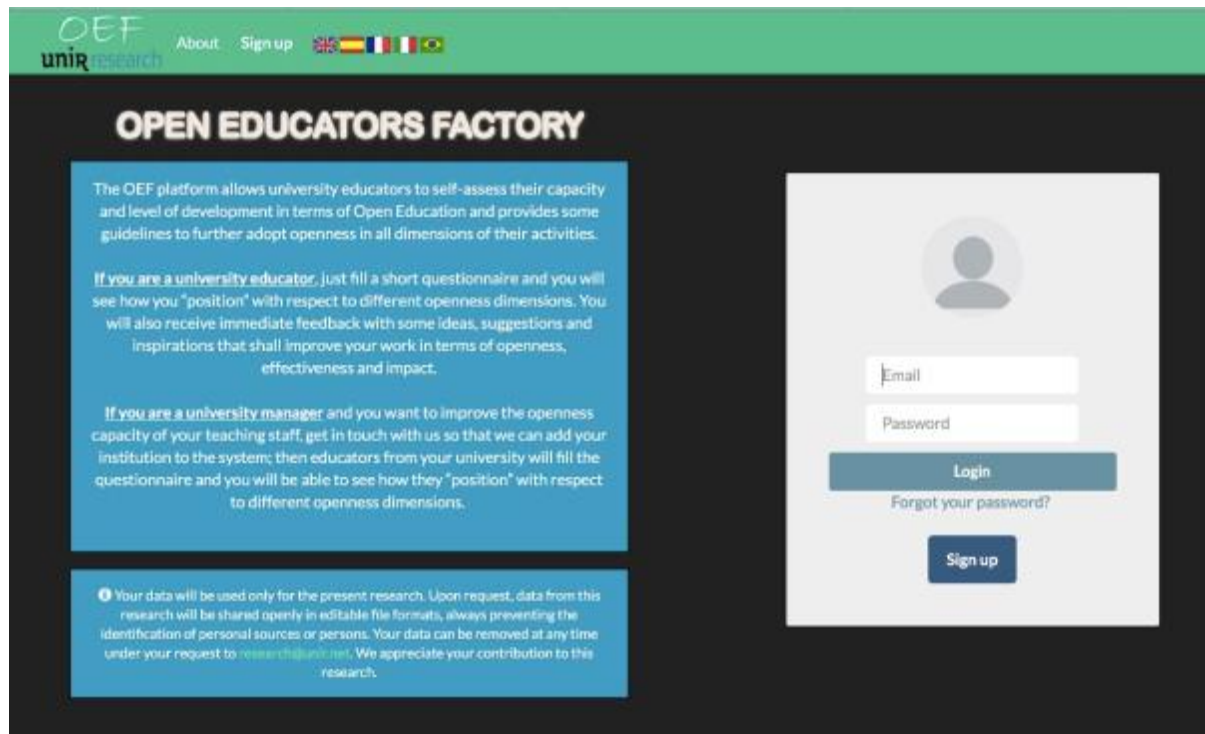
The screenshot displays the OEF (Open Education Framework) platform interface. At the top, there is a green navigation bar with the OEF logo and the text 'unir research'. The navigation menu includes links for 'About', 'Take the survey', 'Your results', 'Overall results', 'Recommendations', and 'Super Admin'. A user profile for 'Fabio' is visible in the top right corner with a 'Logout' button.

The main content area is dark-themed and features a section titled 'RECOMMENDATIONS AND GUIDELINES TO INCREASE THE LEVEL OF OPENNESS IN YOUR TEACHING WORK'. Below this title, a paragraph states: 'Based on the results of your survey, in this page you find some recommended readings, videos, tutorials and courses to improve the level of openness in your teaching'. An 'Export to PDF' button is located below the text.

The first recommendation is 'Open Learning Design'. It includes the text: 'To learn the basics of open learning design, we suggest you:' followed by two suggestions: '... watch a short video on the Importance of Open Education. [Link](#) (duration: 3:31 minutes)' and '... get an understanding of how openness is changing the way courses can be designed and delivered in the future, by reading chapter 10.4 "The implications of "open" for course and program design: towards a paradigm shift?" of the online book "teaching in the digital age" by Tony Bates. [Link](#) (reading time: 10 minutes)'. The second recommendation is 'Open Educational Resources', which also includes the text: 'To learn the basics of OER, we suggest you:' followed by the suggestion: '... watch a short video on the Importance of Open Education. [Link](#) (duration: 3:31 minutes)'.

The OEF platform for teachers (4)

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



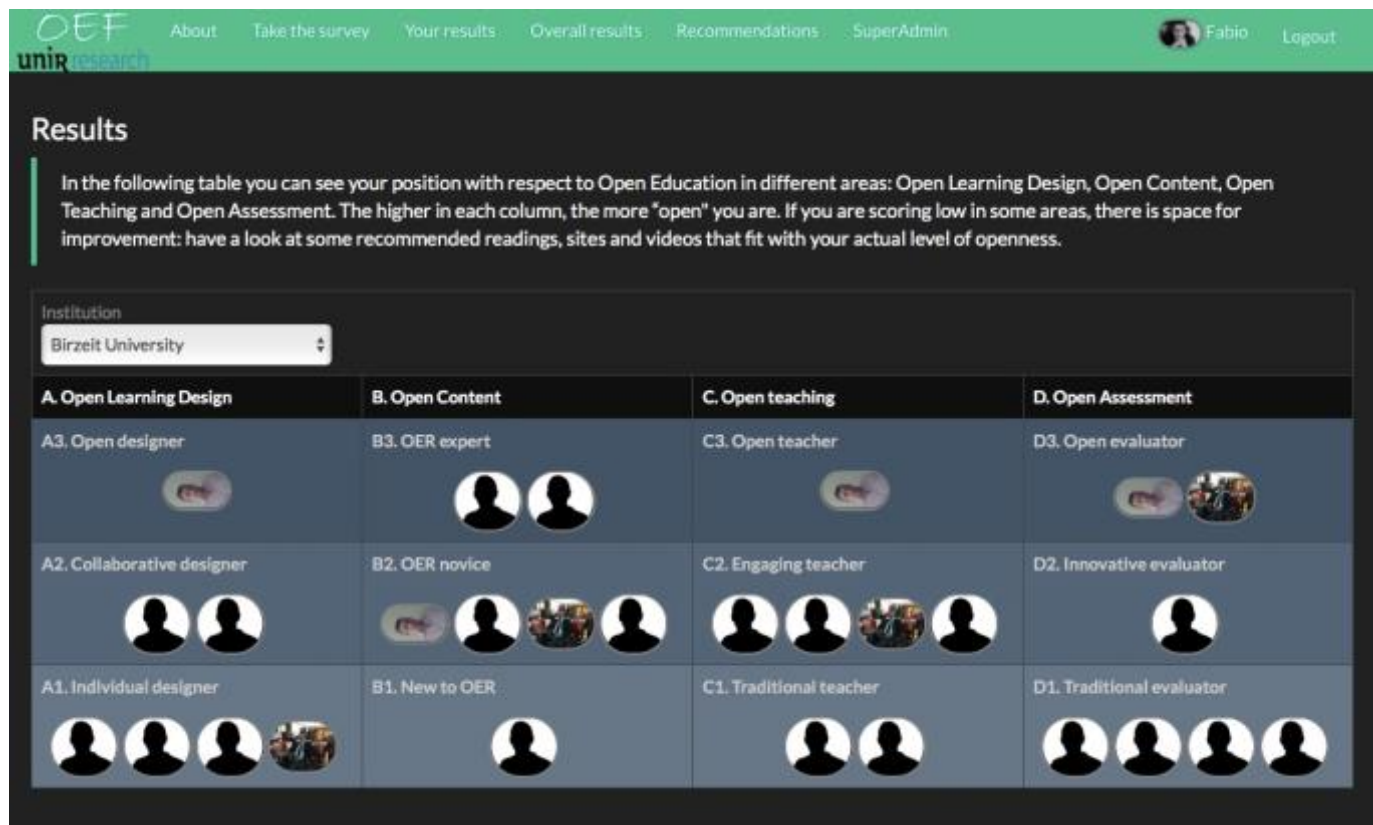
The screenshot shows the OEF platform interface. At the top, there is a green header with the OEF logo and the text "About Sign up" followed by flags for the United Kingdom, Spain, France, Italy, and Brazil. Below the header, the main title "OPEN EDUCATORS FACTORY" is displayed in white on a dark background. The content is organized into three main sections:

- Introduction:** "The OEF platform allows university educators to self-assess their capacity and level of development in terms of Open Education and provides some guidelines to further adopt openness in all dimensions of their activities."
- For University Educators:** "If you are a university educator, just fill a short questionnaire and you will see how you 'position' with respect to different openness dimensions. You will also receive immediate feedback with some ideas, suggestions and inspirations that shall improve your work in terms of openness, effectiveness and impact."
- For University Managers:** "If you are a university manager and you want to improve the openness capacity of your teaching staff, get in touch with us so that we can add your institution to the system; then educators from your university will fill the questionnaire and you will be able to see how they 'position' with respect to different openness dimensions."

On the right side, there is a login and sign-up form. It includes a user icon placeholder, input fields for "Email" and "Password", a "Login" button, a "Forgot your password?" link, and a "Sign up" button. At the bottom left, there is a privacy notice: "Your data will be used only for the present research. Upon request, data from this research will be shared openly in editable file formats, always preventing the identification of personal sources or persons. Your data can be removed at any time under your request to research@unir.net. We appreciate your contribution to this research."

The OEF platform for HE leaders

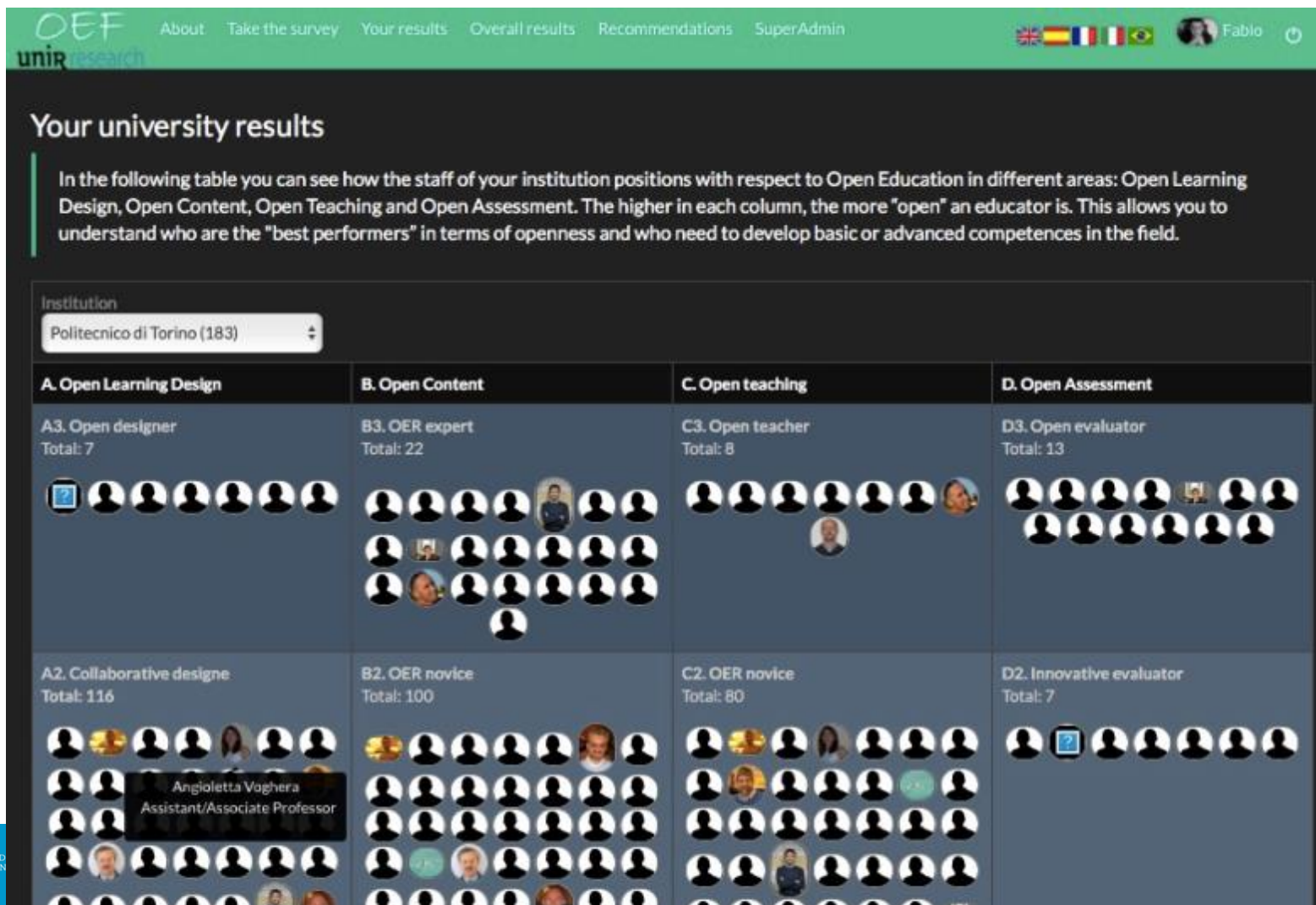
Provides an overview of openness across faculty



Pilot results

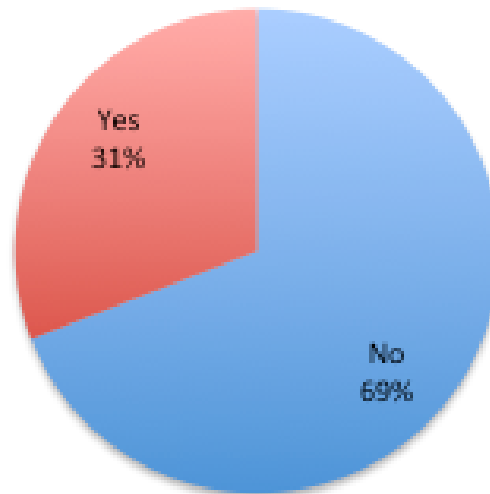
- Pilot held at Politecnico di Torino, Italy
- 200+ replies to the questionnaire
- Caveat: this is a technical university

A picture of openness capacity in the university

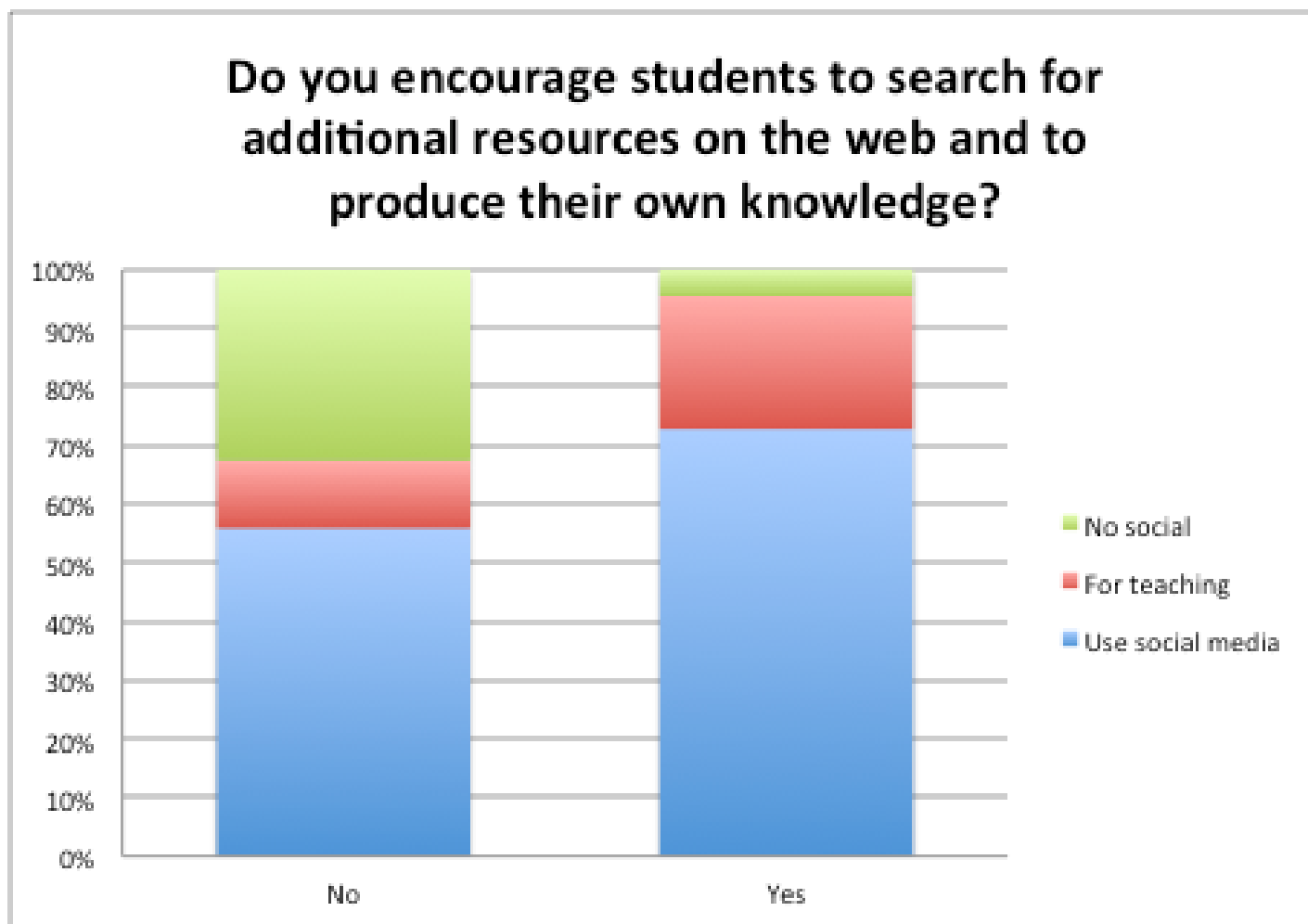


First findings

Do you encourage students to search for additional resources on the web and to produce their own knowledge?



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



The screenshot shows the WikiEducator interface for the page "Research/open educators factory". The page title is "Research/open educators factory" and it is categorized under "Research". The page content includes a "Contents" table of contents and a "Project background" section.

Contents [hide]

- 1 Project background
- 2 Objectives and methodology
- 3 Activities
 - 3.1 Literature review
 - 3.2 Experts interviews and focus group
 - 3.3 Open Educator framework and web self-development tool development
 - 3.4 Pilot and analysis of results
- 4 Preliminary results
 - 4.1 Definition of Open Educator
 - 4.2 Self-assessment and development framework for Open Educators
- 5 Contact persons
- 6 References selection

Project background

The Open Educators Factory (OEF) project stems from the assumption that true progress in terms of openness in higher education (as well as in other educational sectors) requires a major cultural change in the mindset of all stakeholders from public policy makers to institutional leaders, to teachers and researchers, to students and parents. As suggested by Martin Weller in his *The Battle for Open*, this cultural change is gradually happening, but not at the pace that would be needed to make sure that any potential learner can access quality education following his or her preferences in a meaningful way.

OEF believes that the cornerstones for this cultural change to happen are educators. University educators (meant as professors, lecturers and tutors) represent in fact the biggest "resistance" to the Open Education revolution – mainly because they typically fear that their role might be undermined by open approaches and because they do not have a full understanding of the potential of Open Education – and at the same time are the ones that could contribute the most to the adoption of Open Education practices from a genuine bottom up perspective. The idea is that if teachers would drive the Open Education change, even in times when generalised budget cuts are undermining the Higher Education sector development and modernisation, the whole process would be more

http://wikieducator.org/Research/open_educators_factory

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

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