



WORKSHOP

Strengthening the Open Agenda by Connecting Opens

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Why Connect the Opens?

“Interconnectedness improves knowledge reliability, reduces duplication, lowers costs, and supports more equity and fairness globally, while transforming the landscape of higher education and ensuring long-term institutional relevance and impact.

Connecting the opens is not just a matter of efficiency or compliance;

It is a fundamental step towards a more impactful, equitable, and future-oriented higher education system.

Each institution, region and culture will need to take its own approach, responding to its own priorities and situation, but all stand to benefit from a connected approach.”

Why Connect the Opens now?

- Digital transformation in research and education.
- Institutions must remain relevant, accountable, efficient, and equitable.
- Focus on digital sovereignty and taking back control
- Evolution in IP and publishing strategies, and
- Technology incl. Edtech, AI, and open is recognised as a driver of innovation
- Possible threats to Open
- It's time to act

Our vision for Connecting the Opens

- The public good is a core value and central to European Higher Education action: Research and Education is open by default. There is more widespread Open Education action in Europe for the public good.
- The rich diversity of Europe's Open Science and particularly Open Education policy, practice and expertise is clearer than ever before and more aligned and concerted action in OE thrives across Europe.
- In 5 years from now, scores of European countries have OE with OS organised on national levels to help sustain and feed this European framework in the mid to long term.

A Connecting the Opens hub

- A new European Connecting the Open Hub, could be a digital place where communities of different shapes and sizes come and go, where professionals regularly draw on more informed policies, visions, strategies, tactics, advocacy materials, practice, infrastructure, and content for action.
- Can SPARC Europe be the trusted go-to European expert, catalyst of Open frameworks and action, reference point and capacity centre for connecting access to research and education-related knowledge in Higher education across Europe? We'd like to be. But there has to be a need.

Your key takeaways

Participants will leave with

- a better understanding of the synergies between open science and open education.
- Diagrams and visualizations of connections between them will foreground insights and strategies for connecting them.
- Ultimately the insights shared and the resources produced will contribute to creating a hub for sharing expertise, tools and resources for taking a connected and coordinated approach to open science and open education..

Workshop Agenda

Time: 13:00–14:40 (100 min)

- Welcome
- Context Setting
- Choose a Connecting the Opens Table
 - Similarities
 - Vision and Goals
 - Drivers and Incentives
 - Barriers
- Facilitated Report Out
- Designing a Connecting the Opens Hub
- Next steps
- Conclusion

The context

- SPARC Europe Connecting the Opens study
- Hewlett Foundation
- Organisational effectiveness grant

In 2025 and 2026 we spoke to

Rectors, vice-rectors/chancellors, pro-vice-chancellors, directors of learning, teaching and web services, library directors, senior policy and knowledge management advisers, VPs of research, **VPs for academic affairs and open education**, VPs for Information and Communication, **Directors of Communication Information Media, IT and library services**, Deans for Online and Digital Education, **Chief Technical Officers**, Commissioners for International Action, Directors for Alliances, Community and Equity and **Heads of the Academic and Research Centre for Quality Assurance in Education**.

from Austria, France, Germany, Sweden, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain and Ukraine

We heard

A brief history of
OE and OS

The vision,
mission, goals and
values

Political,
organisational and
cultural drivers

The case for
connecting opens

Strategy & Plans

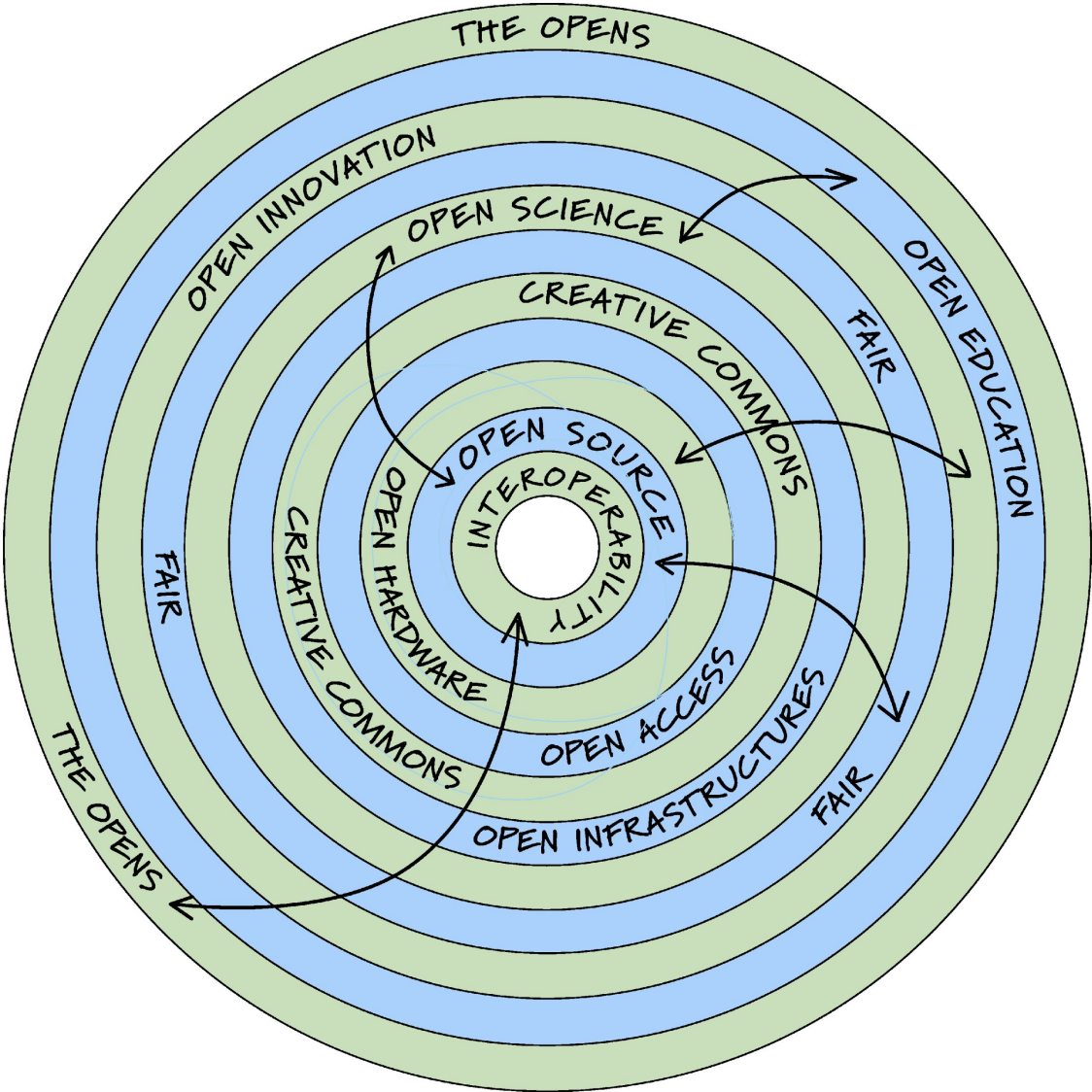
Policy

Incentives &
Barriers

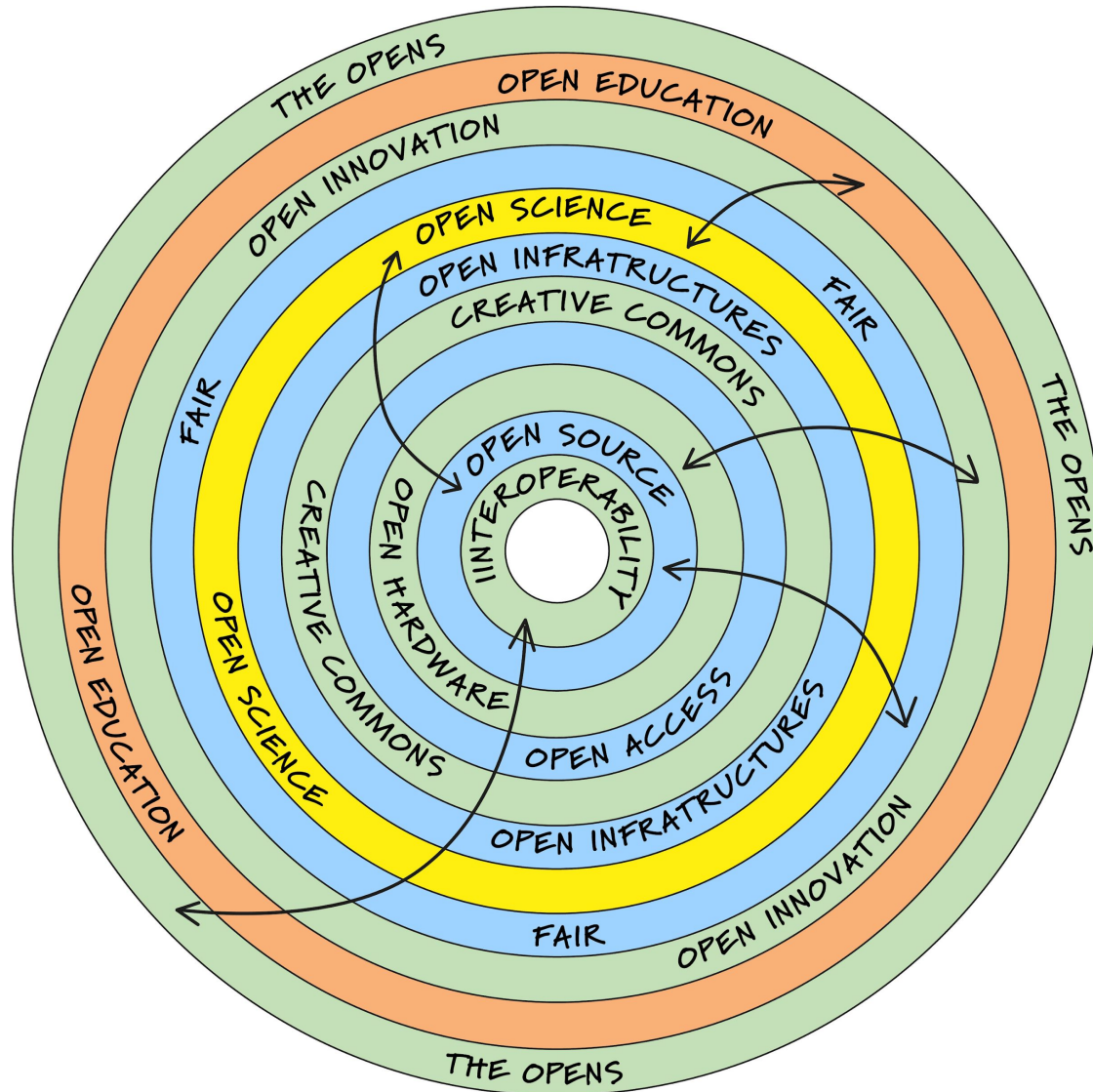
The role of senior
leadership

The resources

The expanding meaning of 'open'



Our focus today – Making the Case for Connecting Open Science and Open Education



Making the Case Workshop Focus

A brief history of
OE and OS

The **vision**,
mission, **goals** and
values

**Political,
organisational and
cultural drivers**

**The case for
connecting opens**

Strategy & Plans

Policy

**Incentives &
Barriers**

The role of senior
leadership

The resources

Activity 1 – Building the Case

- Group Work Building the Case (20 min)
- Choose a Table
 1. Similarities between Open Science and Open Education
 2. Vision and Goals for Connecting Open Science and Open Education
 3. Drivers and Incentives for Connecting Open Science and Open Education
 4. Barriers to Connection Open Science and Open Education

Activity 1 – Building the Case

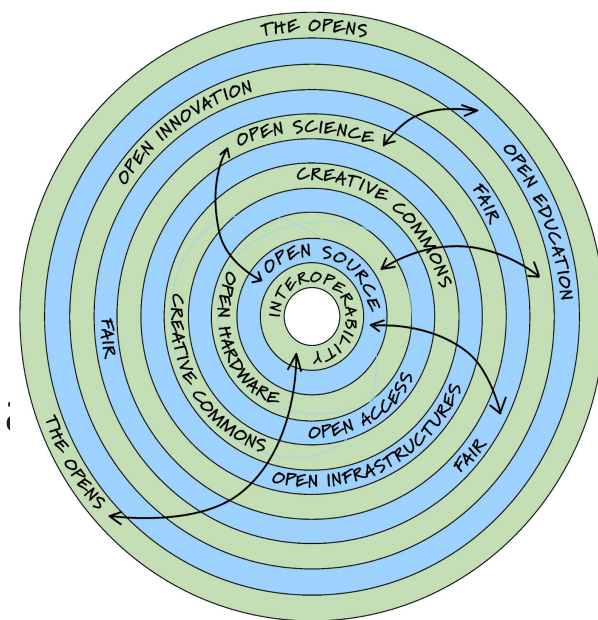
- Introduce yourselves at tables
- Document topic thoughts and ideas on worksheets
 - Individual worksheet with your thoughts and ideas
 - Group worksheet amalgamating everyone's ideas
- Facilitated Report Out (20 min)

Activity 2 – Designing a Hub (25 min)

- Facilitated group brainstorm
 - What resources, supports and services do you need for connecting the opens at your institution?
 - How can a Hub support planning and implementation?
 - How can a Hub be designed to optimize connecting the opens?
- On worksheets, as individuals and groups document resources, supports, services needed

Next Steps

- Build a common vision: Position Paper
- Build capacity: Connecting experts and resources across Europe:
- Focus on senior leadership, and practitioners
- Foster collaboration, learning and and knowledge exchange: CoPs
- Help develop national and institutional policy and strategies
- Provide tools and guidance



Next Steps

- Share more insights on the overarching vision and goals, as well as the drivers, barriers, policies, incentives, strategies, and resources supporting the implementation of connecting the opens from the perspective of university leaders across Europe.
- Create a SPARC Europe hub for universities eager to bring this concept to life by offering a range of services in years to come.

Conclusion


- (Final thoughts from each table)
- Individual worksheets kept by each participant
- Group table worksheet left on table for facilitators
- Invite expression of interest
 - On a piece of paper provided participants can express interest, or make a request, or offer support to SPARC Europe regarding Connecting the Opens and leave it behind on table

The Case for Connecting the Opens

The Case for Connecting the Opens. A SPARC Europe Position Paper:

<https://zenodo.org/records/17572650>

THANK YOU!


The Case for Connecting the Opens
 A SPARC Europe Position Paper

Introduction and context

As digital transformation reshapes higher education (HE), outputs are increasingly being made accessible, shareable, and reusable through open approaches. These span data science, methods, publications, software, hardware, infrastructure, innovation, and education. Multiple forces drive the move towards openness in HE—improving accessibility, advancing pedagogy, meeting policy mandates, cutting costs, and responding to societal expectations.

However, open approaches in different areas of the work of HE have, until now, tended to be pursued in isolation. This position paper makes the case for ‘connecting the opens’ – a more co-ordinated approach that enables the exploitation of synergies and the maximisation of the benefits of openness.

