

## **TO ALL NATIONAL COMMISSIONS FOR UNESCO**

Ljubljana, 19.6.2020

Dear Colleagues,

First of all, let us thank you for your kind and important support in the process for the preparation and adoption of the OER Recommendation. Now it is on all national governments to implement the recommendation. While every country has its own specifics, we can recognize that there is a general lack of well-prepared experts for this big challenge – please compare the see *Challenges for Mainstreaming OER* in the study prepared by the Commonwealth of Learning (p.27), available at

<http://oasis.col.org/handle/11599/2788> .

With the aim of providing expert guidance to OER developers, we launched a global online mentoring program named “Open Education for a Better World (OE4BW)”, facilitated and coordinated jointly by the UNESCO Chair on Open Technologies for Open Educational Resources and Open Education based in Ljubljana, and the University of Nova Gorica (see <http://oe4bw.ijs.si/>).

After three years, the success of this program has encouraged the initiators to make a step further. Consequently, we are very pleased to announce that they have designed a new Master's Degree Program “Leadership in Open Education” starting in October 2020. The study program directly addresses many of the challenges identified in the OER Recommendation by empowering next-generation leaders in the field of open education. Students will be led by an international team of excellent experts and educators towards understanding the connections between technological, pedagogical, business and social aspects of open education. Graduates will master its development and implementation at the whole range and spectrum from individual learning outcomes, courses, study programs to

the institutional, national and transnational levels as well as its use in business or non-governmental organizations. With this knowledge, they will be able to competently lead projects, initiatives, communities and strategic development in the field of open education.

Let us emphasize that some UNESCO chairs (Robert Schuwer, John Shawe Taylor, Tel Amiel and Mitja Jermol) and some other world-known OER experts (Dominic Orr, Larry Cooperman, Jan Neumann) are involved as teachers or mentors, making the program really international. The program will be delivered in English language in a combined way, partially (several weeks) at the University of Nova Gorica in Vipava, Slovenia, and partially on-line. Students not in the position to travel will have the possibility of accomplishing the entire program on-line.

The description of the program is available at:

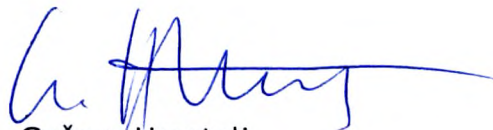
<http://www.ung.si/.../school-of-engineering-and-.../study/2NVOI/>

We very much hope that you will find this program interesting also for students from your country. In this case, we kindly ask you to help us spreading information about this program via your professional channels. We will organize an online presentation of the program on July 2, 2020 from 14:30 to 15:30 CET. Candidates are kindly invited to visit the presentation through the link <https://oe4bw.miteam.si> and register to the OE4BW Festival. The Master's program will be introduced from 14:30 to 15:30 CET. Candidates can also write to [info.ptf@ung.si](mailto:info.ptf@ung.si) to get appointment for an individual consultation session.

In particular, we will appreciate if you can draw attention to policy-makers as the program will educate experts that will be able to change the landscape of open education. We are also actively collecting sponsorships for students from developing countries, so any information helping us will be greatly acknowledged.

Thank you in advance for your kind cooperation.

Yours sincerely,



Gašper Hrastelj  
Deputy Secretary General