

## Introduction to OERs and OEPs

### What is an OER?

OERs refer to Open Educational Resources and entail any educational resources and materials that have been designed for use in teaching and learning.

### What is an OEP?

OEPs refer to Open Educational Practices and are practices that support the reuse and production of OER through institutional policies, promote innovative pedagogical models, and respect and empower learners as co-producers on their lifelong learning path.

In fact, an Open Education Practice is more than using OERs, but it leverages Open Education Resources (OER) to expand the role of educators, allowing teachers to become curators, curriculum designers, and content creators.

### What are the main characteristics of OERs?

OERs are accessible, open, they have open licenses, they're easy to modify, and finally, they are cross-media in digital format.

### What are the benefits of OERs?

There are enhancement of regular course content in language learning, increasing learner's motivation, improving student performance and satisfaction, expanded access to learning, expansion of didactic opportunities, openness, and innovation.

### What are the main challenges of OERs?

There are absence of students and learners' technical skills, specifically ICT skills; limited financial resources to allocate to develop or sustain OERs; insurmountable protection of intellectual property; refusal to use derivative versions of OERs; but also lack of incentives for the creation of OERs; lack of skills to find and adopt appropriate OERs; language barriers; assuring quality and open content; and dealing with copyright issues.

### Any useful tips?

Even though you might not find an OER that perfectly suits your needs, you have the possibility to modify or customize most OERs in order to fit within the context of your language course or the language learning needs of your students.