



European Network for Catalysing  
Open Resources in Education

# Experiences & Piloting of the Quality Transparency Framework

**Dai Griffiths, UNIR iTED**

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# ENCORE+

The report “Piloting the ENCORE+ Quality Framework” is here:

<https://encoreproject.eu/2023/12/01/piloting-the-encorequality-framework/>

# Evaluation by the community

- The QTF came out of work with OER repositories in Europe
- In our evaluation
  - We filled out the QTF together with some of those repositories.
  - Then we asked for feedback on the QTF
    - The concept
    - The experience
    - The structure of level of detail
    - The appropriate users
    - How it could be used

# Many thanks to the repositories and people that participated!

Name	Country	Repository
Marcell Varkonyi	Netherlands	Open Textbooks
Marco Timm	Germany	Wirlernen
Martin Ebner	Austria	TU GRAZ
Margreta Tveisme	Norway	Norwegian Digital Learning Arena (NDLA)
Wiebke Breustedt	Germany	ORCA
Olimpius Istrate	Romania	Digitaledu



# Revisions in the light of feedback

- Completion of the QTF form as it stands did not present any substantial challenges to any of the interviewees
- A number of minor improvements were identified
- The QTF has been adapted in response to these findings
- The revised QTF is available as an annex to the report

# Suggested redesign

- Some interviewees suggested dividing the QTF questionnaire into categories, e.g. 'content', 'metadata' and 'pedagogy'
- This change would require community consultation and testing before release
- It will be considered in any substantial revision of the QTF



# Usefulness of the QTF

- It seems that we did a good job:
  - A quality transparency framework is welcome, and the ENCORE+ QTF is fit for purpose
- The benefits they interviewees saw were:
  - Increasing trust in repositories and their contents
  - Sharing practice between repositories
  - Can function as a checklist of quality measures, supporting development of repositories' QA practices
  - A possible route to an OER repository quality mark or badge

# Constraints

- Of the six repositories interviewed, two felt that the QTF was a valuable initiative but not very relevant to their particular circumstances
  - NDLA is based on commissioned resources
  - Open Textbooks uses an editorial process to assure quality, and is also primarily designed to serve the needs of a particular institution
- In a future deployment we should
  - Which kinds of repositories the QTF is most appropriate for *and/or*
  - Change the QTF to provide better support for the full range of repositories





# Profiling the QTF

- A consensus that representations of repositories' practices should be profiled for different audiences
- For example:
  - People responsible for the QA of repositories
  - The teachers and learners who use the content
  - Managers and decision makers



# How the QTF could best be used

- The main challenge: relating complex local QA processes to a standard framework

The conversation with the interviewer greatly helped in clarifying interviewees doubts

- Perhaps the QTF could be most effectively deployed in this interview-based format

This is feasible, as the total number of OER repositories is not huge (Santos *et al.* examined 110)



# Realising the benefits of the QTF

- We have a QTF instrument. It would be valuable if this generated a representation of the repository's QA practice which could be included on the repository website
- More ambitious would be an infrastructure for comparison between the QTF profiles of repositories
  - A website that gathers representations of different repositories QA practices.
  - A webpage for each representation which can be linked to from each repository's website
  - An interface for browsing the different representations