



# Minutes

of the

## 1<sup>st</sup> Official Meeting of ICORE in Rome, Italy

*on Wednesday, 15th of May 2013 (from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM)*

*at the Hotel Abitart Conference Centre in Rome, Italy*

*ICORE Official Website: [www.ICORE-online.org](http://www.ICORE-online.org)*

### Annexes to this Document:

- Annex A: List of 41 Participants
- Annex B: Presentation hold by Christian M. Stracke
- Annex C: Flipcharts with the meeting results

### 1. Introduction

- Official welcome by Christian M. Stracke (Germany).
- Round Call – Short introduction by all individual participants (41 in total).
  - Incl. participants from Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Romania, Spain, Sweden, and UK.
  - Incl. participants with backgrounds: Agronomics, applied linguistics, computer science, education, information management, language learning, literature, physics, quality management, among others.
  - Incl. participants from: private sector (consulting firms, institutes, etc.) and public sector (universities, institutes).

### 2. Background of ICORE

- ICORE initiated in context of VOA3R Project.
  - VOA3R Platform (<http://voa3r.cc.uah.es/>) harvesting aquaculture and agriculture repositories available as open educational resources.
  - ICORE: a way to approach open educational resources and supplement VOA3R project experiences.



## ICORE: The International Council for Open Research and Education

- Opening up Education and Digital Agenda for Europe – New initiatives and policies by European Commission.
- Global movements and communities for Open Research and Open Education.
  - Open Research and Open Education as two different worlds – benefits stand to be gained through their connection.
  - ICORE thus aims to address this lack of interaction between two aligned fields.
- First announcement of ICORE during Online Educa Berlin 2012 – positive feedback from participants.
  - First draft of ICORE statutes developed in part through discussion there.
  - ICORE events both during this first official meeting in Rome as well as LINQ 2013 and ICORE reception during the first day of the LINQ conference (16th of May 2013, 5:00 PM).

### 3. Introduction of ICORE Objectives

- First draft of statutes contains full explanation of ICORE mission and objectives (available at: <http://www.icore-online.org/membership>).
  - Main objective: promotion, support, and enhancement of Open Research, Open Science and Open Education – e.g. through digital resources.
  - Not competitive: Umbrella organisation to bring together various stakeholder groups for positive affiliations, no membership fees, no competition with existing organisations but close cooperation.

### 4. Public Consultation of Draft of ICORE Statutes

- First draft of ICORE Statutes available online (see above) and are open for your feedback.
- Invitations sent over the three weeks prior to first official meeting in Rome; over 30 organisations and 150 individuals indicated interest in membership at time of 1<sup>st</sup> official meeting.
- Many different associations, organisations across the fields of open education and research, eLearning, learning innovation, learning management interested in collaboration (incl. UNESCO, FAO, EDEN, OCW-C, INRA, ICROFS, ACTA, GRNET, among others).



## 5. Discussion, Feedback from Participants

### ICORE Objectives and Activities

- Christian M. Stracke (University of Duisburg-Essen): First feedback from open consultation of ICORE Statutes:
  - Concerns about name: ICORE could be confused with ICDE (International Council for Open and Distance Education).
  - Question was raised whether another international association is necessary and if so, which organisational and legal status would be best.
  - Question was raised whether to integrate open software and / or precise open licenses into the statutes.
  - Question was raised whether to integrate taking note of Global Annual Developments in Open Access / Open Research / Open Education into the statutes.
  - Further proposals for changes are included in version 2 of the statutes.
- Nellie Van der Griend (DELFT University of Technology): Strong support for ideas behind association, in Europe and globally. Europe is behind in open educational resources, ICORE can support further development. It is crucial to understand what kinds of activities ICORE would support. Most effective method of collaboration is less strictly organized, but activities need to be clear.
- Stefan Colibaba (EuroEd Foundation): Many institutions at university level promote open education resources in Europe. Prospects for collaboration however are great – though clear definitions of terms (such as “open”) important.
- Anca Colibaba (EuroEd Foundation): Differences in national contexts still play a role for open educational resources – **quality** is an issue.
- Rory McGreal (UNESCO OER Chair from University of Athabasca): There is a need for a clear **definition** – e.g. a commitment to the use of Creative Commons Licenses. We need to reflect on how ICORE positions itself amongst the other related associations. Divide between open educational resources and open research poignant lack of communication. OCWC and ICORE collaboration has potential to improve the situation.
- Diane Le Hénaff (INRA): **Linking the two themes** of open education and open research is very important – it should be main focus of ICORE, as it is lacking in other associations.



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- Miguel-Angel Sicilia (University of Alcalá): ICORE could support sustainability of VOA3R project results, and advance the open education and research efforts began there. Strong interest in legal formalisation of open research.
- Mark Rittberger (DIPF): From a German national perspective, open education resources become more and more important at primary and secondary educational levels.
- Miguel-Angel Sicilia (University of Alcalá): “Open Access” itself is too restrictive – open education and resources a better fit. ICORE could be less about papers or data, but more about methods.
- Alannah Fitzgerald (University of Concordia): What is the interface between open education and open research? Demonstration thereof are important for success of ICORE – some type of report could have political importance.
- Christian M. Stracke (University of Duisburg-Essen): ICORE for marketing, dissemination, and lobbying of OER and open research initiatives, to promote their usage internationally.
- Jay Cross (Internet Time Group LLC): To make ICORE concrete – where is this going? ICORE should create a common vision:
  - What would be different if ICORE was become successful?
  - When would the ICORE be achieved? What are the specifics of the ICORE philosophy?
- Nellie Van der Griend (DELFT University of Technology, the Netherlands): Gather concrete practices concerning the application and approaches that ICORE could take upon concrete activities could lead to a better understanding and established collaboration.
- Christian M. Stracke (University of Duisburg-Essen): Further feedback from open consultation of ICORE Statutes: Integrating open science, open software, and / or precise open licenses?

### ICORE Organisational Structure and Legal Status

- Christian M. Stracke (University of Duisburg-Essen) starts discussion about ICORE legal status: What type of organisation should ICORE be? Could be registered as German NGO (i.e. “Verein”, almost no costs attached). And what is the best timing for establishment?
- Christian M. Stracke (University of Duisburg-Essen): Already existing funding to be tapped – through existent organisations and associations. Legal situation in Germany potentially as non-profit organisation with minimal initial costs. Is that the right way to progress?



## ICORE: The International Council for Open Research and Education

- ICORE next steps – Ideas gathered:
  - Establishment of task forces for specific topics
  - Virtual meetings for further discussions
  - Pre-conference workshop at Online Educa Berlin 2013 with other key organisations?

### Financing/Funding

- Tony Bates (Tony Bates Associates Ltd): Where are the finances? Is this a voluntary participation?
- Jay Cross (Internet Time Group LLC): Agreement with Tony Bates. What are funding source and resources?
- Christian M. Stracke (University of Duisburg-Essen): Planned principles:
  - ICORE based upon voluntary work (and potentially sponsorship) – certain amount of participation not stipulated. ICORE provides no funding, based on interest and common goals of its members, no membership fees, no overarching bureaucratic body.
  - ICORE focuses on specific tasks and campaign first, with precisely defined targets and collaboration with all interested third parties.
- Thomas Richter (University of Duisburg-Essen): Membership fees could have the risk of decreasing interest in active participation because thereby a service would be expected from the coordinators – i.e. membership fees should not replace participation. Interested entities should rather collaborate because it advances their own interests.
- Anca Colibaba (EuroEd Foundation): ICORE participants will be interested due to the advancement of their own interests and existing professional involvements.

### ICORE Relation to Other Initiatives

- Christian M. Stracke (University of Duisburg-Essen): Most important that ICORE does not intend to create competition to existing associations.
- Rory McGreal (UNESCO OER Chair from University of Athabasca): How does ICORE approach European funding? Announcements regarding EC initiatives a potential source of financial support (Opening Up Education Initiative). Collaboration with politics potentially fruitful – recent announcements by EC and following foundation of ICORE a good opportunity to link political interests and efficacy.



## Governance and Role of Members

- Tony Bates (Tony Bates Associates Ltd): ICORE should have clear expectations of its members – real issue behind funding question. Governance should be made clear. Activity for putting names to a certain structure, thus responsibilities divided.

## Scope of ICORE

- Rory McGreal (UNESCO OER Chair from University of Athabasca): If international, then representation from every continent important, not just Europe and North America.

## 6. Conclusions

- Christian M. Stracke (University of Duisburg-Essen): Summarises that it seems that more discussion is needed before establishing the association and that it could be helpful to launch virtual meetings open for everybody and to invite all relevant and interested stakeholders to join: Agreed by all participants.
- Christian M. Stracke (University of Duisburg-Essen): Proposal to start brainstorming on (1) topics to be discussed in the future and on (2) first activities to be addressed and to be started with: Agreed by all participants.
- Christian M. Stracke (University of Duisburg-Essen): Starts brainstorming and collection of (1) topics and of (2) first activities on flipchart, followed by voting on their importance by all participants (each participant could express interest and vote for all topics and all activities), results see below:
- **ICORE Main Focus – (1) Topics for Future Discussion:**  
*(In order of popularity, including corresponding votes after brainstorming)*
  1. **Connection Open Research (OR) and Open Education (OE) (20 votes)**
  2. **Promotion of OR and OE (14)**
  3. Learning strategy/didactics (6)
  4. Legal/Licenses (5)
  5. Quality (4)
  6. Languages/Linguistics (2)



## ICORE: The International Council for Open Research and Education

- **ICORE (2) First Activities:**

*(In order of popularity, including corresponding votes for respective topics listed above)*

1. **Repositories of Digital Resources: examples and/or case studies (Topic 1 "Connection ...": 10 votes) (Topic 2 "Promotion": 13 votes)**
  2. **Definitions of Terms/Objectives (Topic 1: 9 votes) (Topic 2: 5 votes)**
  3. **Joint Report (Topic 1: 4 votes) (Topic 2: 9 votes)**
  4. Structure and Name (related to legal status): Organisational issue
  5. Task forces/interest groups: Organisational issue
- Christian M. Stracke (University of Duisburg-Essen): Summarises that the following next steps could be considered as meaningful and appropriate and should be taken: Agreed by all participants.

- **ICORE Next steps - Future Virtual Meetings:**

*(Specific appointments to be announced)*

**Directly after this meeting:**

- Preparation of minutes to be approved by participants.
- Setting up ICORE mailing list and wiki website for discussion.
- Pre-meeting collection of (existing) definitions for “openness” and other key terms, including “open educational resources” and “open research”.
- Discussion and decision on definitions to be used by ICORE within the planned virtual meeting:

**First Virtual Meeting:**

1. Discussion on ICORE connection between Open Research and Open Education (selected Topic 1)
2. Discussion on ICORE promotional possibilities of Open Research and Open Education (selected Topic 2)
3. Discussion on legal status, name and organisational structure, also open to other associations such as OCW Consortium and UNESCO, also identified as important by all participants (organisational issues)

Further communications through ICORE mailing list and potentially Wiki site. All interested individuals are welcome to join ICORE to broaden the discussion – meeting participants are encouraged to spread the word.