



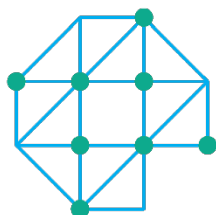
Kennisnet



# Some thoughts about sustainable OER

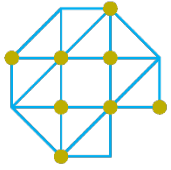
It's all about ownership!

Zone 42 (Ben Janssen, Jan-Bart de Vreede, Robert Schuwer)



**Acceleration plan**  
Educational innovation  
with ICT

digital educational resources



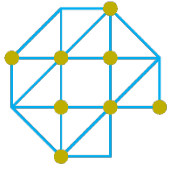
Acceleration plan  
Educational innovation  
with ICT

Zone 42



Image CC-BY Leontien van Rossum





## Acceleration plan

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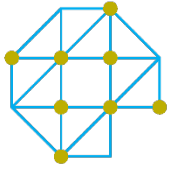


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## Agenda

- Frame of reference
- Why ownership?
- Realisation of ownership
- A case from The Netherlands



## Acceleration plan

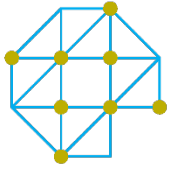
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## Different notions of OER

- OER considered as **public goods** (Wiley, 2020)
  - non-excludable and non-rivalrous
- OER considered as a **commons good** (Hess & Ostrom, 2001)
  - non-excludable and to a certain extent rivalrous (under-use or no maintenance)
  - commoning: maintaining and managing of resources by communities (see also (Schophuizen, 2022))
- These notions all affect the issue of sustainability of OER (Wiley, 2007)



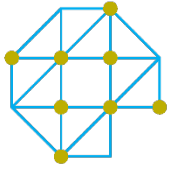
## Sustainability of OER initiatives

“... the ability of a project to continue its operations. And certainly, the idea of **continuing** is a critical part of the meaning of sustainability (...).

The definition of sustainability should **include** the idea of **accomplishing goals** in addition to ideas related to longevity.

Hereafter, sustainability will be defined as an open educational resource project's **ongoing ability** to meet its goals."

(Wiley, 2007) (emphasis added)



## Acceleration plan

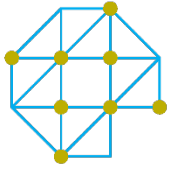
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## The question of ownership

- Collections of Open Educational Resources
- **Goal:** creating **ongoing ability** (enduring value) → **sustainability**
- **Ownership:** taking responsibility for creating **and sustaining** value



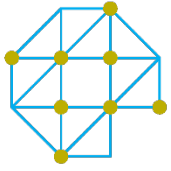
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### Sustaining value: business models

- Through public funding (Bccampus)
  - Through internal funding (U. of Edinburgh, U. of Southern Queensland, UK Open University)
  - Through endowments/donations (Wikipedia, OpenStax College, Khan Academy)
  - By participating in an OER network (OERu, African Health OER Network)
  - By offering services to learners (Khan Academy, Lumen Learning, Siyavula, OpenStax)
  - By relying on OER authors (Jörn Loviscach)
  - By producing OER on demand (federal textbook programme in Brazil)
  - Through sponsorship/advertisement (Global Text Project)
  - By offering learning-related data to companies (Hootsuite Academy)
  - **Community-based model (Educred.ro, OER communities in OSGeo)**
- 
- **Ownership beats finance**



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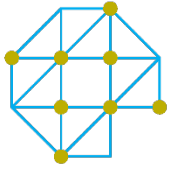
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## Community-based model

- The members of the community jointly bear the production and maintenance costs of OER, with those materials also being accessible to others outside the community.
- Variations are situations in which students also produce materials, whether or not in co-creation (Open Pedagogy).
- Non-financial incentives necessary in order to acquire and retain participation, for example recognition, the desire to see one's own material improved, efficiency through sharing the workload, etc.
- Contributions by members in various forms (engagement)

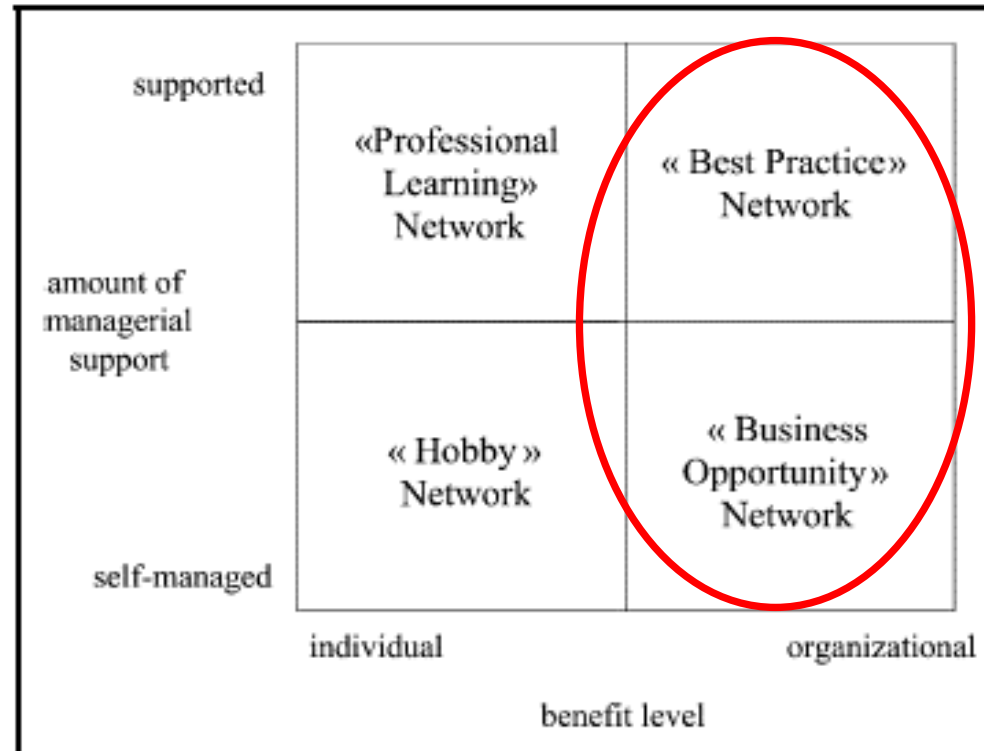




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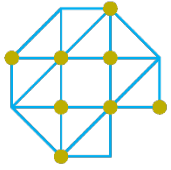
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## Sustainability community



Institutionalized  
sharing knowledge

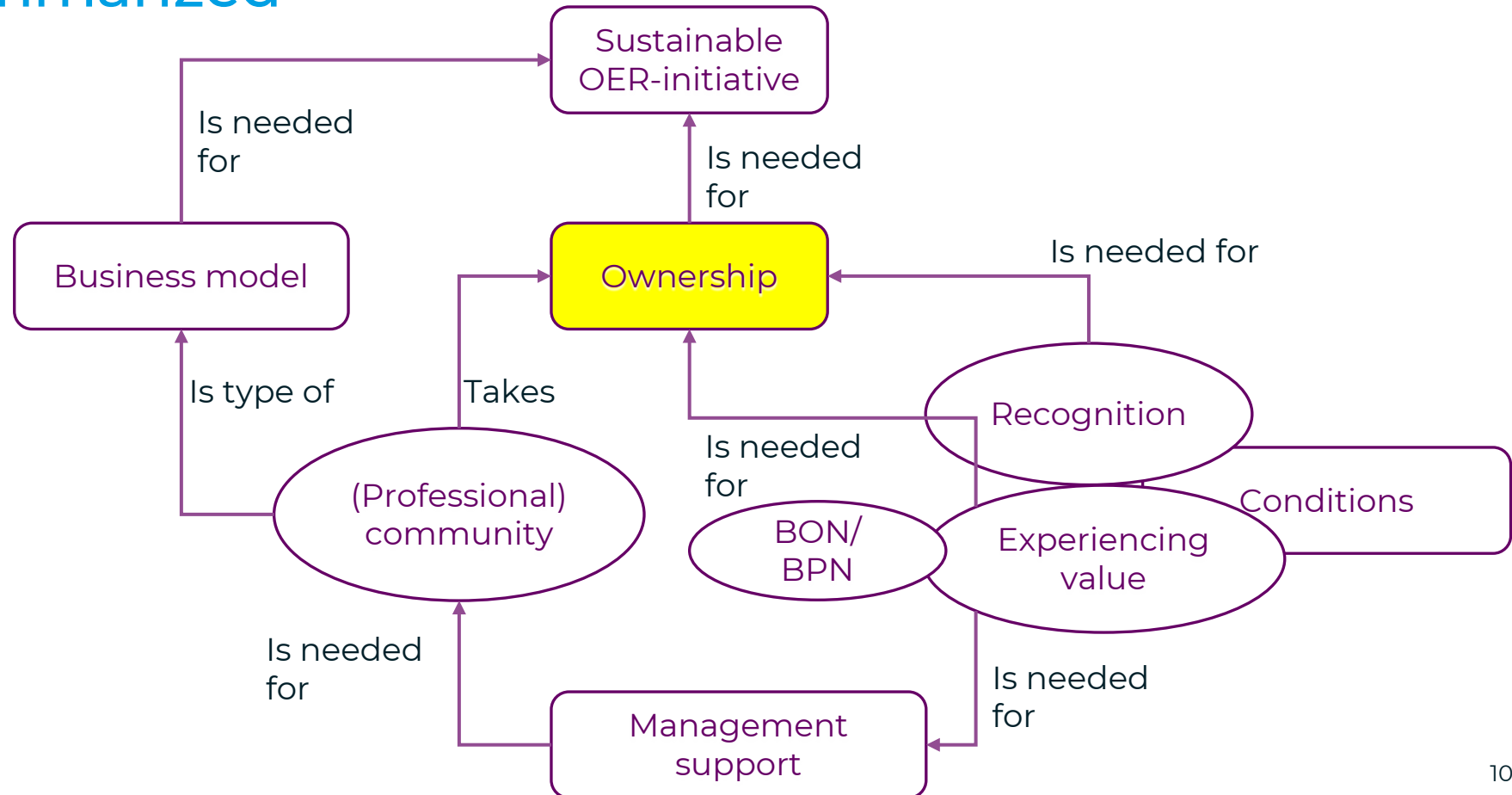
Incubator

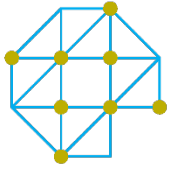


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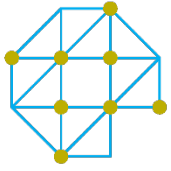
## Summarized





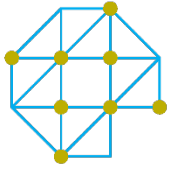
## How to translate this to a working practice

- Wikiwijs Platform
  - More than 150K interactive online lessons created (CC-BY and CC-BY-SA)
  - 6M direct visits per year
  - Plus local copies within learning environments
  - Direct links with more than 80 collections
  - Open licensed and open standard connections to all LMS platforms



## Ownership within Wikiwijs communities

- Step 1: facilitate a discussion on a common definition of quality
- Step 2: a homepage “this is us and what we think is important”
  - Layer over Wikiwijs
- Make it possible to “certify” materials by a community
- Recognize and reward “creators and owners”
  - Indirectly affects management support
- Encourage ownership of metadata (for other materials as well as their own)



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## Colophon

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