

Challenge 1: Alignment and compatibility of institutional curricula models (including credit levels and teaching periods)

Barriers	Possible Solutions
Language of curriculum development, e.g. are they modules, units, courses or papers? Cross-cultural understanding of OERs	Dialogue and discussion to agree a common and consistent use of language. Need for definition and explanation in a Digital Handbook.
Institutional policy and standards.	Identifying common and agreed policy and standards for the course.
Disaggregated components, e.g. timetables, teaching periods, duration, credit levels, assessment criteria/policy (grading A, B, C ... or alpha numeric or %)	Discussion to agree a common and consistent policy for the course. The pilot may help to identify issues and requirements.
Who gives accreditation and monitors standards?	Designated to one or small group of institutions?
Lack of mobility of students and transferability of credits for courses.	Alignment of the course to national and international qualification frameworks, e.g. Bologna.
Universities often want to 'own' students, even on open access courses – potential for income generation.	Challenge the ethos of the institutions that take this stance? Clarify the benefits to senior management of true collaborative working and HE open access.
Teachers want to 'bottle themselves'	Clarify the benefits to academics of collaborative working, e.g. in raising their profile, international credibility, etc.
Cultural values and ethos of the institutions, e.g. an HEI with a holistic, whole person model may feel that OER module does not fit with ethos.	Can dialogue and modification of the module be initiated if this occurs? Can the institution take the module, modify and use it with in their own academic development programmes? However, non-open access may not provide the full international experience.
Sustainability of the OER.	This will need to be addressed by the long term commitment of the 'lead' institutions delivering the module. Also allowing other HEIs to use and modify the module for their own context (and non-open access) may ensure sustainability of the module's use.