**Glossary**

**OER** – Open Educational Resources are digital learning resources which are free and open for anyone and can be used, shared, combined, adapted, and expanded. Examples for OER are digital textbooks, podcasts, games and courses.

**Learning Object** (LO) – A learning object is a digital file (image, movie, etc.) intended to be used for pedagogical purposes, which includes, either internally or via association, suggestions on the appropriate context within which to utilize the object ([Sosteric & Hesemeier, 2002](http://www.irrodl.org/index.php/irrodl/article/viewFile/106/557))

**Metadata** - Metadata is descriptive information about a resource (e.g. creator, title), which describes the LO. It is essential that each LO has consistent metadata fields so that different metadata aggregators can exchange information. The best known metadata schemes are the IEEE LOM and the Dublin Core.

**OER Referatory** – A repository which stores only the metadata of OER, which are located in various OER repositories.

**Paradata** - Records of user activity related to a learning object. Paradata can record the number of times a resource was accessed and downloaded, the tags it was given by users, whether it was commented upon, what was the content of the comments and so forth. Paradata also record user-specific activity, for example course enrollment and preferred language, so the system can improve the users’ experience by fine-tuning to their needs.

**Creative Commons** – Creative Commons is a non-profit organization with the goal of making sharing and using of online resources easier, from the legal perspective. The CC licenses simplify the OER sharing by assisting copyright holders to enable others to copy, distribute, remix and make other use of the copyright holders’ materials.

**Federated search** – Federated search allows users to search through one referatory in a network, or federation, of OER repositories. Although the repositories will remain geographically distributed and located on different servers, a common metadata scheme facilitates the retrieval of LOs that general search engines normally cannot retrieve.