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## **Trusted Communities – Teaching with your friends...**

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The benefits of the use of social networks is intensely discussed in the communities of teachers, researchers and decision makers. Some applications such as wikis or blogs have been successfully used but many approaches have also failed. The key questions are therefore:

- "How can we improve educational settings in social networks?"
- "How can we initiate new cooperations?"
- "How can we find people who share our ideas and needs?"

The concept of trust plays a crucial role in networks both in business and education. The idea of creating (swift) trust between people with similar needs, ideas and work tasks is central to the presentation. We will present a case regarding the use of Open Educational Resources. OER are resources which are openly accessible and mostly available free for teaching purposes. However, the idea of re-using OER to improve educational settings has not yet been as successful as the open source or open access initiative. One of the reasons is a lack of trust towards resources or people. We believe that current Open Content initiatives make a crucial mistake: They assume that people share freely and almost altruistically with everyone in the world. We believe, however, that sharing and collaboration only works amongst partners we trust. Therefore we will discuss trust-building mechanisms in social networks. We will show samples from successful (general) networks but also for educational networks.

The presentation should lead to a discussion of how teachers could collaborate using social networks and already available resources, such as lesson plans or teaching resources (OER). We believe that creating trusted networks (of friends and people we trust) will support new collaborative teaching scenarios as well as benefit teachers in their daily work.

