The EduCoop Open Education Cooperative is the result of a wide view of openness in education. It grew from a strong belief that openness means cooperation, process, diversity, readiness for change, trust, courage and a willingness to experience something new.

The Cooperative’s focus is on a cooperation model for creating high-quality open educational resources (OER). We want to improve the competences of the project’s participants when it comes to using digital tools in education, and increase their knowledge of copyrights, Creative Commons and free licenses. Each year we invite 13-15 teachers to participate in the project.

Who are the participants and collaborators of the project?

Our choices are based on our observations, conversations and information we collected, during last year’s we concluded that math, climate changes and wellbeing are the subjects that requires special attention in school. We wanted to provide support for teachers who admit that their textbooks aren’t enough and that they make their own additional materials in order to get through to their students better. We also wanted to show that collaboration can be beneficial on many levels.

This is what the math teachers, who work with us wrote in the introduction to their resources:

We – a team of young math teachers, passionate about the subject, want to reach not only students, but also inspire instructors. We hope that our ideas will make users realize that mathematics is omnipresent, interesting, and can be learned in a fun way.

The participants had absolute freedom when it came to the topics they covered or how they worked. There were only two principles: the materials were to be made in groups and become open educational resources. During four meetings and additional remote collaboration they fine-tuned their topic and got to know design methods and technical solutions, all while learning about novelties from the education world. We invited collaborators, including designers, a graphic designer, an educationalist, a video specialist, an accessibility specialist and people who specialize in various education methods and tools.

Results – materials an online course

As a result of the project they create extensive educational resources.

An online course called “Open education in practice”, based on materials developed during the pilot project, has been launched in October 2018. It was be mentored by the teachers who participated in the project’s first edition. The first edition of course was meant for all teachers who are just beginning their foray into openness, but also those who seek new inspirations and solutions.
Subsequently, the course was changed to be useful to librarians of school, public and academic libraries. 350 people can take part in the course at a time. So far, there have been two editions of the course.

Ultimately, the course will be open to everyone and ready to be implemented at any time.

The course also has an English version that we are working on.

In my presentation, I would like to show an open online course that is to support the creation of open educational resources created as part of the Centrum Cyfrowe (Digitali Center Poland) project: SpołEd (EduCoop).

What I’m going to talk about:

- description of the Open Education Cooperative project
- course description and usage suggestions
- method scaling presentation
- searching for partners for cooperation
- if there will be time we could make together small exercise from the course

For four years Centrum Cyfrowe have been cooperating with teachers and librarians, together we create open educational resources, but also talk about what open education is, what competences it requires, which of them are crucial for the learning process in general. In our project, we are guided by 4 values: cooperation, learning, openness and adventure. And it is the starting point for all our activities.

The course was created as a collection of good practices, tools and methods that we have developed over the years. It also collects materials produced by other organizations, universities and sometimes private individuals. We show and practice the use of tools, but also learning methods. We support canvases and simple checklists. The course also encourages you to create your own learning resource. The course shows the theory and history of Open Educational Resources, but the most important thing about it is practice. Our experience shows that it is difficult to understand the idea of oer unless you make your own resource available. This is what we are striving for.

Last year, we translated the course into English and we tried to select more universal examples and materials so that it could also be used by teachers from other countries.

We are open to cooperation, translations into another language or new versions of the course. We know that this course can be modified according to the needs, because we did so in creating a separate version for librarians. We believe that such a formula not only enables easy translation, but also adaptation to the needs of various groups that may be interested
in open education, not only teachers, but also parents, employees of cultural centers and institutions.

Therefore, I would like there to be space during the presentation for active participation, asking questions, adding insights and ideas, and possibly a short sample of the course itself.