The Global Digital Commons:
The UNESCO/SDSN OER Overlay Repository

Building a Diamond Engagement for Education for Sustainable Development

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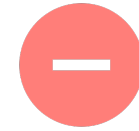
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Open Educational Resources for Sustainability

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- Urgent need
- Multiple benefits
- Multiple stakeholders
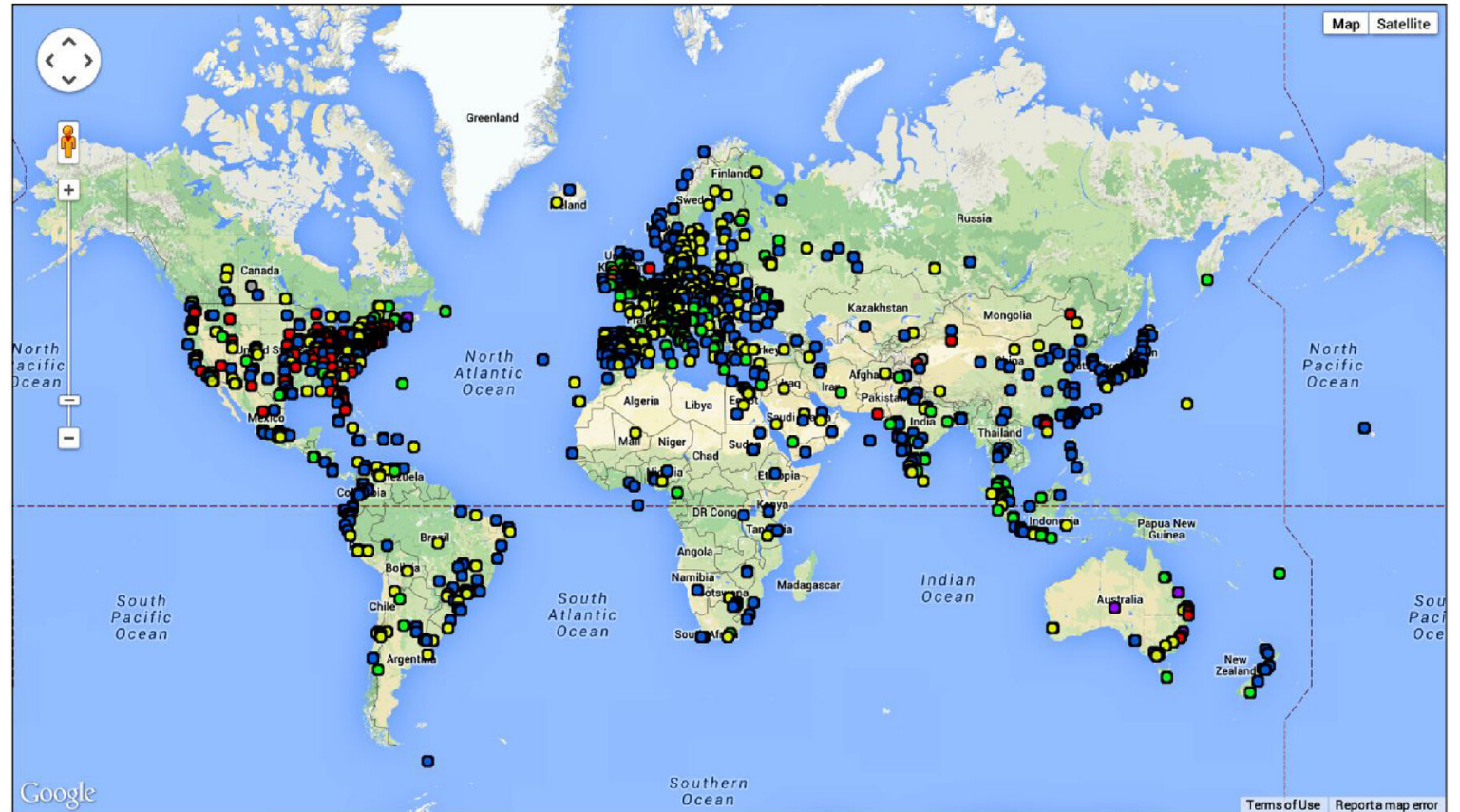- Investment & Value
- Growing rapidly
- Essential for SDG4

- Poor discoverability
- Disconnected
- Fragmented
- Poor interoperability
- No quality assurance
- Suboptimal infrastructure
- Limited availability to potential users

AI

"… the focus needs to shift from the creation and growth of new and competing platforms to intelligent ways of linking and increasing their interconnectedness. "

– Otto D and Kerres M (2022)

Build on existing infrastructures, standards, networks

- c.5,000 institutional repositories worldwide (2021)

- Metadata, persistent identifiers and licences provided.

- Metadata harvested & aggregated by services such as OpenAIRE.

- Powerful open, non commercial infrastructure

- Equitable & sustainable

- Libraries of all kinds are involved

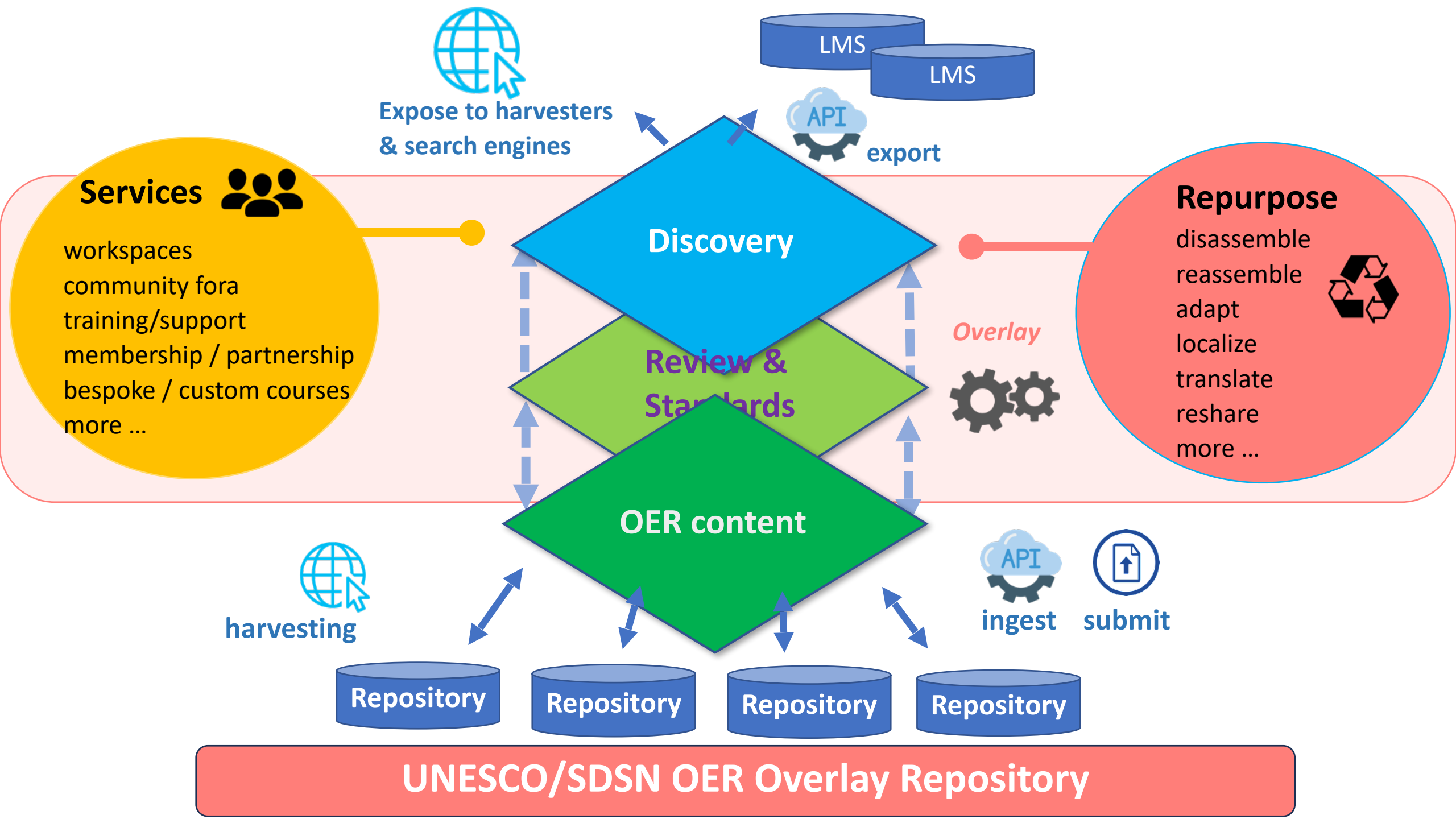- Technical developments, e.g., NOTIFY from COAR

Map of institutional repositories worldwide, 2021*

Standards/principles: FAIR, CARE, POSI, Helsinki Multilingualism, FOREST …

Networks: OpenAIRE, EIFL, Redalyc, COAR, SPARC, OER Africa, IFLA …

Policies/regulations: UNESCO OER Recommendations, Dubai Declaration, UN Governing AI for Humanity (2024), EU AI Act (2024)

* https://doi.org/10.1177/01655515231202758

Expose to harvesters & search engines

LMS
LMS

API export

Services

workspaces
community fora
training/support
membership / partnership
bespoke / custom courses
more …

Discovery

Review & Standards

OER content

Overlay

Repurpose

disassemble
reassemble
adapt
localize
translate
reshare
more …

harvesting

API ingest   submit

Repository   Repository   Repository   Repository

UNESCO/SDSN OER Overlay Repository

Principles

FAIR, CARE, FOREST, POSI, AmeliCA, etc. principles are the central facet and the foundation of the Global Knowledge Commons.
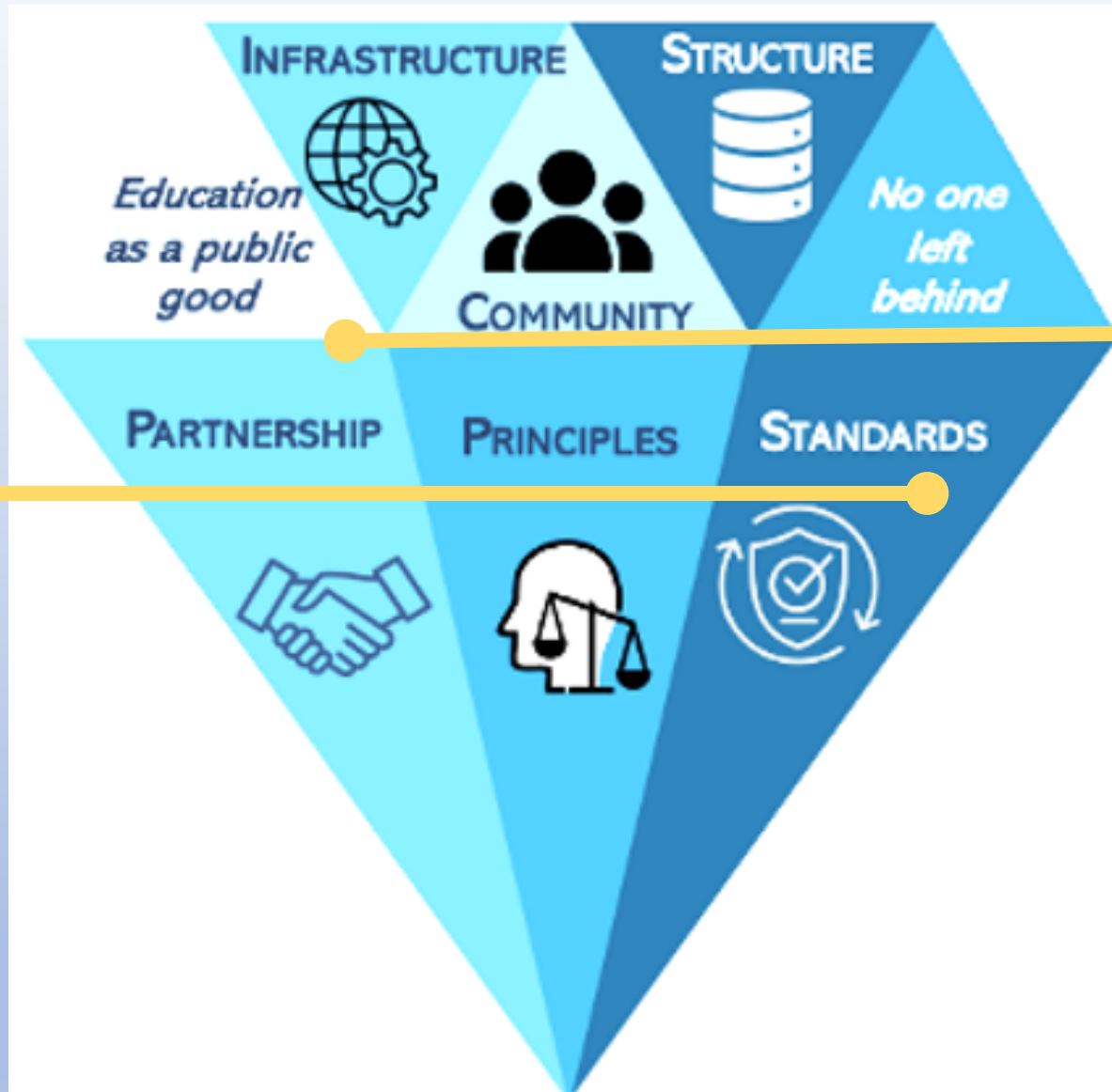
Standards

Standards and Interoperability underpin the infrastructure and enable knowledge sharing across systems.

Community

The global community is the audience and also represents citizens, academics and researchers, lifelong learners, Citizen Scientists, content co-creators.

INFRASTRUCTURE

STRUCTURE

Education as a public good

COMMUNITY

No one left behind

PARTNERSHIP   PRINCIPLES   STANDARDS

Partnership

Policy-makers, research performing institutions, libraries and digital, policy, legal and advocacy networks.

Structure

Enabling structure based on educators, content creators, researchers, librarians

Infrastructure

Open, non-profit, publicly-owned distributed infrastructure

OER for Sustainable Development – Diamond Engagement

– https://www.unsdsn.org/resources/the-contribution-of-libraries-to-education-for-sustainable-development/

Go raibh míle maith agaibh!
Thank you!

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