OPEN LEARNING SYSTEM FOR POST SCHOOL EDUCATION AND TRAINING: UPDATE

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Defining Open Learning

Open learning is an approach which combines the principles of learner centredness, lifelong learning, flexibility of learning provision, the removal of barriers to access learning, the recognition for credit of prior learning experience, the provision of learner support, the construction of learning programmes in the expectation that learners can succeed, and the maintenance of rigorous quality assurance over the design of learning materials and support systems."

Department of Education, 1995: White Paper on Education and Training

Department of Higher Education and Training, 2013: White Paper for Post-School Education and Training

Deliverables of the Open Learning Project

1. **Pilot** an open learning system in the following programmes:

   - one skills programme

   - five subjects for NASCA

   - two NCV subjects

   - a Career Development Practitioners' programme;

2. Publish case studies on the application of open learning in PSET; and

3. Coordinate, research and promote the use of Open Educational Resources (OER) in PSET
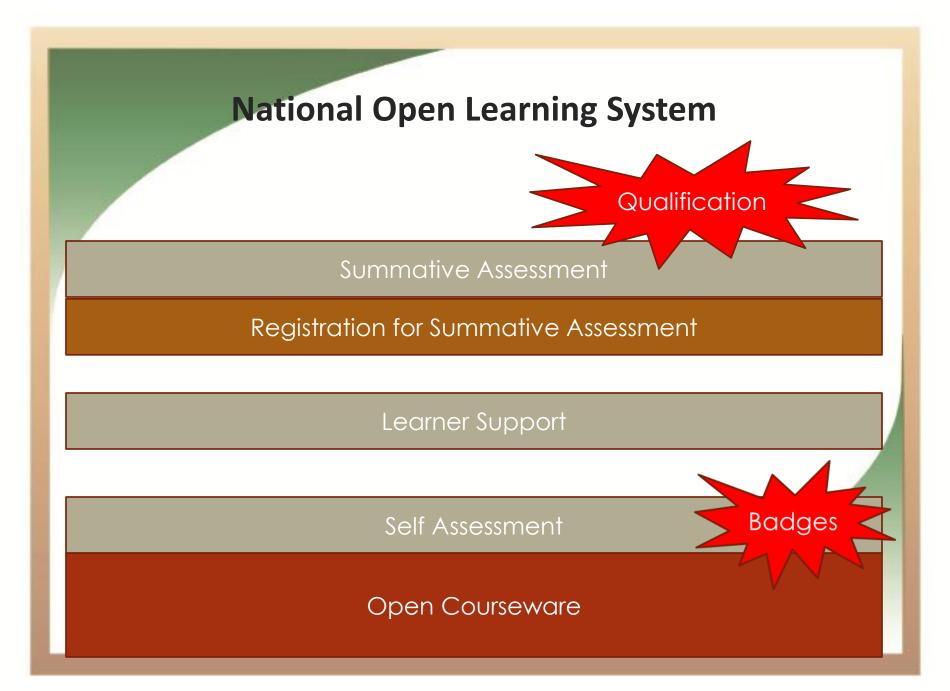
Piloting an Open Learning System

- Developing a robust, contextualised learning management system

- Developing materials for the identified programmes to be piloted

- Creating an enabling environment for the implementation of open learning approaches

Piloting an Open Learning System

A ROBUST, CONTEXTUALISED LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM:

- **May 2016 –** Business Process Description for a National Open Learning System was developed by State Information Technology Agency and approved by the Director-General

- **July 2016 –** Recommendation to use Google Course Builder as the LMS to pilot the identified programmes was approved

- **February 2017 -** Prototype materials, based on the National Occupational Certificate: Electrician qualification were developed and uploaded onto the platform

National Open Learning System

Qualification

Summative Assessment

Registration for Summative Assessment

Learner Support

Self Assessment

Badges

Open Courseware

Piloting an Open Learning System

DEVELOPING LEARNING MATERIALS FOR THE IDENTIFIED PROGRAMMES

- **December 2016** – Programmes and subjects identified and approved for development

- **June 2017 -** A tender to appoint a service provider to develop materials for the **Electrician Learning Programme** was published

- **July 2017 -** A tender to appoint a service provider to develop materials for **five NASCA subjects** was published

- **September 2017** – Tender was awarded (Electrician programme) and Director-General approved the composition and appointment of a Subject Expert Group to assist the service provider with the development

Piloting an Open Learning System

CREATING AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OPEN LEARNING APPROACHES

- **February 2017 –** First draft of the **Policy Framework for Open Learning** was completed

- **April 2017 –** The **Position Paper on Online Programmes and Courses** was approved and published on the DHET website

- **April 2017 –** The **Report on TVET Colleges offering Distance Education** was approved and published on the DHET website

- **July 2017 –** The piloting of the **Career Interest Questionnaire** was initiated at seven colleges

Focus for 2017/18

- Develop and implement an advocacy and communication plan to promote Open Learning and the use of OER