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The Open University and UNED meet to define an initiative for technological collaboration



From left to right: Timothy Read, José Luis Fdez. Vindel, Denise Kirkpatrick and Bernardo Díaz

Denise Kirkpatrick, pro-vice-chancellor of The Open University, has recently been visiting the UNED with the aim of finalising some ongoing discussions between the two institutions, regarding the possibility of finding common ground for technological collaboration, specifically in the area of open educational resources (OER).

The two universities have many things in common, sharing almost 40 years in the field of distance learning. Both can boast an impressive number of enrolled students. The Open University has approximately 180,000 and the UNED more than 200,000 - and their mutual aim is to provide access to higher education to those who, for various reasons, are not able to follow the conventional route.

This collaboration would enable both universities to join forces in coordinating initiatives in areas such as technological innovation, specifically in the area of OER, and how they are generated, distributed and used as a central part of the educational process, including their role in the new social networking tools.