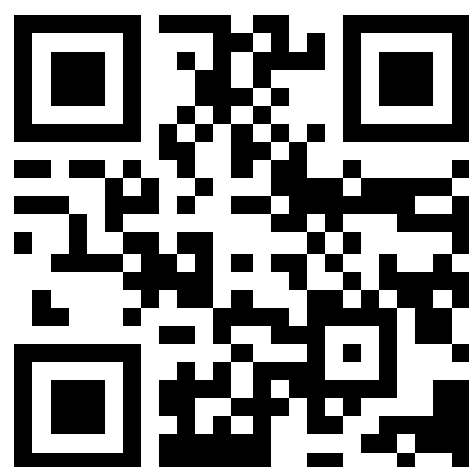


# OPEN SOURCE MEDIA CONTENT FOR TEACHING ECONOMICS

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## Objectives

The current project aims at:

- constructing a *comprehensive database* of relevant material in economics.
- identifying *potential users* of the database
- matching the content to the *official syllabus*
- integrating the content into *pedagogical approaches*

## Introduction

The initial assessment of teaching practices highlighted the challenge of activating learners in the classroom. The aim is to reduce monotony and add greater variety in teaching methods.

Audiovisual sources add interest to the instructional event, which can, in turn, boost motivation [2, 3]. These sources also provide learners with an alternative representation of information and can lead to a deeper processing of information.

Teaching practice is always framed by a particular curricular context and learning objectives. This project aims to harmonize the offer of media sources with the demands of the national curriculum in Luxembourg. This tool should not only support learners and teachers but also help design and keep the syllabus used in the different schools up-to-date.

## Contribution

I felt it useful to systemise and share resources in order to be effective in lesson planning and teaching. The main contribution of this project is to offer a *centralized open source framework* which is not owned by one individual or organisation. The second contribution is matching the different sources with the *official syllabus* taught throughout the different schools.

## Media Database

The database, which is the core of this project, is composed of videos, articles, and other material. It offers a set of parameters for each item that can be integrated in lesson plans.

| Description       | Number of items | Examples                                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|--|
| Source            | 42              | Arte, Financial Times, Nature, ...       |
| Language          | 5               | French, German, English, ...             |
| Subtitles         | 3               | French, German, English                  |
| Media Type        | 8               | article, audio, video, database, webpage |
| Time (in minutes) | $1 < t < 50$    |  |
| Keywords          | $> 100$         | monetary policy, labour market, ...      |

## Pedagogical Approach

This project can be used to implement a variety of pedagogical methods in the classroom. Relevant links can be shared with iPad classes. Articles can be used in group work. In general, all the material can be implemented in the flipped classroom approach [1, 4].



Fig. 1: Overview of the project.

## Potential Users

The primary users of this database are teachers and learners. Teachers can experiment with the material and also contribute to the project by submitting questions, keywords or material that they have found useful. Other potential users are professionals who design, maintain or update the official syllabus.

## Reflection

Matching the material to the syllabus is a time consuming process. Although sources can be reused over years, some topics may lose relevance and others become relevant over time. In order not to compromise the purpose of catching the attention of the learner, it is important to routinely update the database.

The current project has been tested in different curricular systems with varying levels of success. The variety of the material in the database lends itself to different teaching methods and can be used according to the needs of the particular syllabus.

## Remarks

The following materials were required to complete the project:

- Python Web Front End for Database
- Github repository: <https://github.com/tarikgit/econmediaDB>

This project uses a Python web front end for updating the database. All sources are open source and accessible in a public Github repository. All links are available at [www.ocaktan.org](http://www.ocaktan.org)

## References

- [1] Jamie Keddie. *Bringing online video into the classroom-Into the Classroom*. Oxford University Press, 2014.
- [2] Richard E Mayer. "Multimedia learning". In: *Psychology of learning and motivation*. Vol. 41. Elsevier, 2002, pp. 85–139.
- [3] Will Richardson. *Blogs, wikis, podcasts, and other powerful web tools for classrooms*. Corwin press, 2010.
- [4] Shaun Wilden. *Mobile learning*. Oxford University Press, 2017.