

SKILLS CATALOGUE FOR JOINT INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAMMES IN THE EUROPEAN EDUCATION AREA

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Objectives. EU and national policy planning documents encourage the development of international cooperation in the field of higher education, including the creation of joint study programmes or courses. Often, differences in the structure and content planning of study programmes are a significant limitation to achieving such results. Based on the skills monitoring system developed by RSU, the objective of the study is to analyse the potential use of an international skills catalogue in a common European Education Area.

Materials and Methods. To achieve the objective, the project “SkillTrack” was created with partners from Baskent University (Turkey), Arcada University of Applied Sciences (Finland), Protestant University of Applied Sciences Ludwigsburg (Germany), (01.2022-01.2024, Erasmus+funding No.2021-1-LV01-KA220-HED-000023077). As part of the project task, mapping of practical skills of the study programmes implemented by the partners (“Social work”, “Nursing”, “Occupational Therapy”, “Physiotherapy”) was carried out, and an electronic unified skills catalogue was created, as well as descriptions of the identified skills.

Results. For mapping process 517 social work, 740 nursing, 378 occupational therapy, and 298 physiotherapy skills were submitted. After mapping and two workshops, different and common skills were identified and 240 skills were included in the skills catalogue to develop a unified teaching and assessment methodology. The interim results of the project show that an unified electronic platform for skills descriptions provides a convenient and transparent skills registration for multiple partners.

Conclusions. The skills catalogue gives the opportunity to create a unified teaching and assessment methodology and provides support in planning the sequential acquisition of skills in joint programmes. At the same time, it was concluded that universities should look for individual technical solutions to connect the skills catalogue with local IT systems. The existing catalogue should be supplemented with descriptions of new skills, adding other study programmes and expanding the range of partners, promoting opportunities for cooperation in a common European Education Area.