



Network for integrating Virtual Mobility and European Qualification Framework  
in HE and CE Institutions

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# How to Achieve Transparency by Applying Learning Outcomes with Educational Design?

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# Background: VIRQUAL Project

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The VIRQUAL project ([virqual.up.pt](http://virqual.up.pt)) has been established to

- encourage and improve virtual mobility (VM) among European students
- by implementing requirements of the European Qualification Framework (EQF)



# Mobility and Transparency

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Why is transparency important for (virtual) mobility?

- orientation
- mutual trust
- educational design
- marketing



# Means of Transparency

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How can transparency be achieved in educational contexts?

- *Clearly defined products:*
  - professionally written learning outcomes
- *Quality control:*
  - adequate assessment strategies, modalities and criteria



# Learning outcomes vs. objectives

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## Outcomes

- student centred
- output oriented
- competence based
- global

## Objectives

- teacher centred
- process oriented
- knowledge based
- local



# Value of learning outcomes

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Learning outcomes can be regarded as

- The genetic code of education
- The hard currency of educational mobility and recognition



# Learning Outcomes in the EHEA

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How is the status quo of implementing learning outcomes at European universities?

- multi speed development
- depends on country, university, and specific sub-division
- when beginning, institutions lack specific competences



# Implications of development

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The shift to  
learning

outcomes =      technical change  
                         + organisational change  
                         + psychological change  
                         + political change  
                         = cultural change





# Deficits of current development

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The need for

technical change:

organisational change:

psychological change:

policy change:

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cultural change:

arouses lack of

knowhow

knowledge

attitudes

co-operation

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modern academic  
culture



# Deficit meets Support

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How can the identified problems be solved?

## *Internal developments*

- management decisions
- organisational development

## *External support*

- materials and tools
- networks and workshops



# Support by materials & tools

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Which kind of materials and tools could be useful?

- blueprints of *guidelines* for writing learning outcomes
- usable *psychological background* information material
- collection of *best practice examples* of learning outcomes



# Support by communication

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Which communication strategies could be helpful?

- Web-based repositories
- Lectures, workshops and coaching
- Meetings, conferences and networks



# Next steps towards EHEA

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Where does VIRQUAL<sup>1)</sup> plan to put stress on for the next two years?

- Guidelines
- Best practice examples of intended learning outcomes (ILO repositories)

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<sup>1)</sup> particularly WP 7 / SIG 3



# Conditions of success

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Under what conditions could this concept be successful?

IF the initiative will be supported by

- a critical percentage of individuals (appr. 10%) and
- a critical percentage of institutions (appr. 25%)
- as contributors *and* users



# The success depends on YOU!

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What will you have to do  
to make this initiative successful?

- *contribute* to guidelines and best practice collections (ILO repository)
- *use* guidelines and best practice examples
- if possible evaluate and *improve* them



Thank you for your attention –

**and the answers** you will hopefully  
give to the following questions.





# What do you YOU think about it ?

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This initiative could make sense.  
I will join it.

or

It will never work. It would be a waste  
of time to deal with it.



# 8 questions to potential partners

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- Why would you refuse to contribute to the guidelines?
- Why would your institution deny to give you the permission to do so?



# 8 questions to potential partners

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- Why would you refuse to use available guideline?
- Why would your institution animate you to act like that?



# 8 questions to potential partners

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- Why would you refuse to contribute to the ILO repository?
- Why would your institution deny to give you the permission to do so?



## 8 questions to potential partners

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- Why would you refuse to use intended learning outcomes written by authors from other institutions?
- Why would your institution animate you to act like that?



# Overview of all questions

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Initiative **will make sense** /  
will not make sense

	me	Inst
• refuse to contribute to guidelines		
• refuse to use available guideline blueprints		
• refuse to contribute to the intended learning outcomes repository		
• refuse to use ILOs written by authors from other institutions		



Thank you again for your attention  
and your contributions!

Gottfried S. Csanyi

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