Competence-based learning: the approach for the future?

The conference aims to give fresh insights into the relevance of competence-based learning in a Life Long Learning context. Since 2001 the Tuning Project has highlighted the relevance of competence based student centred learning for high quality programmes that meet the requirements of the present and future. Tuning has developed a methodology to (re)design degree programmes on this basis. The methodology has been appraised highly by independent Validation Panels of experts. Institutions all over Europe have started to implement this approach as part of the development of their internal quality culture. Central in the Tuning approach is the distinction between generic and subject specific competences. In 2002 a survey was carried out to identify the relevance and importance of a selected number of these competences. In the spring of 2008 this exercise has been repeated. In this conference the results of this consultation will be presented and compared to the 2002 exercise to identify present and future trends in stakeholder demands. A key element in the Tuning approach is the profile of a degree programme, which should be well described and of relevance for society. The outcomes of the consultation process is an important source of information in this respect. At the conference guidelines will be presented to elaborate the ideal model.

In a workgroup setting the Tuning approach will be applied in practice. Point of departure will be to follow the complete process of (re)designing a degree programme, that is the identification of needs, preparing a targeted profile, identifying key generic competences (transferable skills) and subject specific competences (knowledge, understanding, skills, abilities and attitudes), writing learning outcomes (related to the appropriate level), selecting the most effective approaches to teaching, learning and assessment (TLA). Attention will be given to all three cycles.

Target audience: (Vice)Rectors and (Vice) Deans and Directors of Studies, (Senior) Academics, Policy Officers, Student representatives, ECTS/DS counselors, Bologna Promoters, Quality Assurance and Recognition Officers, National Agencies, etc.

Practical Information
Conference venue: Hotel Thon Brussels City Centre  
Avenue du Boulevard 17  
B-1210 Brussels, Belgium  

Dates: 12-13 June 2008  
Conference fee: none  
Registration: through Tuning website: http://tuning.unideusto.org/tuningeu  
Deadline for registration: 21 May 2008
Conference Programme

Thursday 12 June 2008

Plenary session:

9.00 – 9.30 Registration
9.30 – 9.40 Welcome
9.40 – 10.00 Opening by EC official
10.00 – 10.50 Tuning Consultation 2008 on Competences: Presentation of Outcomes by Jon Paul Laka
10.50 – 11.20 Coffee Break
11.20 – 11.40 Degree Programmes Profiles: Guidelines for Elaborating the Ideal Model
11.40 – 12.00 Becoming Competent: a Student’s View on the Role of Learning Outcomes and Competence-based Learning in the TLA process by ESU representative
12.00 – 12.15 After Tuning .... :
   o Dissemination of Tuning outcomes at international and national level
   o Future structures
12.15 – 13.00 Round table: Trends in degree programme development in Higher Education 2002 – 2008 and beyond
Moderator: Peter van der Hijden (EC)
13.00 – 14.30 Lunch
14.30 – 16.00 First round of workshops
16.00 – 16.30 Coffee break
16.30 – 18.00 Second round of workshops

Friday 13 June 2008

9.30 – 11.00 Third round of workshops
11.00 – 11.30 Coffee break
11.30 – 13.00 Fourth round of workshops

**Workshops**

Every participant is expected to register for one workgroup. Thirteen different workgroups will be offered of which twelve will be related to a particular subject area. Academic fields that will be covered are Business Studies, Chemistry, Earth Sciences, Educational Sciences, European Studies, History, Mathematics, Music, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Physics and Civil Engineering. For those who have a general interest in the topic and feel not affiliated with any of the areas a general workgroup is on offer.

Each workgroup will have four sessions in which the different stages of preparing a degree programme and its components will be discussed:

1. From the identification of social and employability needs to profile definitions;
2. From profile description to identification of critical competences and learning outcomes for the degree programme;
3. From learning outcomes to a suitable structure and a fair workload weight of the degree programme units;
4. From learning outcomes to best strategies for teaching, learning and assessment.

The discussion will be based on one case study to be presented and handed out on paper and on the material resulting from the consultation process. The learning outcomes of each workshop will be that participants acquire knowledge and experience regarding re-(designing) learner centred / competence based degree programmes and have awareness about the different elements that play a role in the process as well as its outcomes.