

Methods and instruments to achieve common standards for the description of study programs in the EHEA

WG on Mobility and Internationalization
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The Terms of Reference of the WG on Mobility and Internationalization include a specific task *to explore options of improving the information on study programs and admission systems in the EHEA*. This aspect is considered in point 8 of the Mobility Strategy for Better Learning adopted in the Bucharest Communiqué, as a mean to increase mobility through improved information on study programs.

To accomplish this task, first the potential of using common standards for the description of study programs should be clearly identified in relation with the main aim of shorten response times for international applications and facilitate access to relevant information on student support structures.

In the present situation the lack of common standards for the description of study programs reflects the wide variety in study courses with different duration, capacities and admission criteria, even at national level.

The setting up of common standards for the description of study programs could be a first step trough the implementation of common internet-based admission systems in the EHEA, especially in joint programs like Erasmus Mundus.

The proposed points for discussion at the WG are:

- How could the information on study programs be improved?
- What are the main advantages of setting common standards in the description of study programs in the EHEA?
- Barriers and obstacles to the setting up of common standards.
- Template with the minimum set of information that should be included in the description of study programs for international applicants.
- How the diversity of higher education in the EHEA as well as university autonomy can be considered in a framework of common standards for the description of study programs.
- How information already available can be used to advance towards common standards while avoiding additional burden on institutions.
- Identification of best practices in the description of study programs
- Central (Regional, National, European level) vs decentralised (institutions) information on study programs.
- Links with admission systems.

In following meetings of the WG, topics for discussion could be:

- Policy measures to improve information on study programs
- Possibility to develop common or comparable description of study programs
- Internet-based admission systems.