

# CORE II

## Newsletter 1

### “Introducing CoRE II”



April 2009

#### Background

Learning outcomes are becoming increasingly important in defining the goals and end results of a learning experience. Instead of focusing on the input (such as the duration of the programme and subjects taken), the output of education (competences and skills obtained) is now at the centre of attention. This approach is being reinforced by major developments within the European Higher Education Area, such as the Bologna Process and the implementation of qualification frameworks. Set against this background, CoRe II - *Competences in Education and Recognition II* - has recently been launched.

#### Objectives of CoRe II

In an earlier project (CoRe I), it was established that European institutions of higher education are having difficulties in expressing the learning outcomes of their programmes through clear and concise descriptions of competences. Therefore, the CoRe II project has been launched to pursue the following three objectives:

1. To produce **guidelines** on how to write learning outcomes based on 3 fields:
  - history,
  - physics and
  - nursing,
2. To develop a **standard format** for the Tuning degree profile, and
3. To develop a **glossary of terms** to contribute to the similar use of words and phrases.

#### The Tuning Degree Profile:

“A description of the character of a programme or qualification, giving the main features of the programme, how it fits into the academic map of disciplines or thematic studies and how it relates to the professional world. The degree profile is defined in learning outcomes, which are formulated in terms of competences.”

The guidelines, degree profile template and glossary of terms will be published, together with examples of good practice, in a user friendly Guide, which will be made available to end-users and other interested stakeholders. Similar to CoRe 1, the results of the project will be published on the CoRe website: <http://www.core-project.eu>.

#### Methodology

The guidelines, format and glossary of terms will be developed in three stages. The three instruments will be developed by a ‘core - working group’ that will work together in consultation with the (project) working group and a sample of higher education institutions that will test the first draft of the guidelines, format and glossary.

#### Results

The brochure will provide higher education institutions with a tool that will assist in the production of effective and transparent programme profiles, which provide specific and measurable information on competences. This will help students to clarify their competences, improve the recognition of their qualifications, and thus increase their opportunities for mobility and employability. It will also help institutions to make their programmes more



attractive to students, and in finding suitable partners for co-operation (both with other education institutions and with business/industry). Credential evaluators, admissions officers and employers will also benefit, as they will profit from more transparent descriptions of competences in the process of admitting students or selecting employees.

### **The CoRe II project team:**

The CoRe II project consortium is composed as follows:

1. **TUNING** (Co-ordinator, History, Physics and Nursing) participates as the 3 instruments will be developed within the framework of the Tuning methodology and concern the 3 subject areas.
2. **NARIC** - National Academic Recognition and Information Centres (Nuffic, UK NARIC, CIEP, Czech NARIC and Estonian NARIC), to contribute with their expertise in international recognition of qualifications to ensure the transparency and comparability of the 3 instruments. Nuffic and UK NARIC act as the CoReII project leaders.
3. **ECA** - European Consortium for Accreditation/**NVAO** (Nederlandse-Vlaamse Accreditatie Organisatie) represents the view from accreditation.

### **Funding**

CoRe II will be carried out under the Lifelong Learning- Erasmus programme – Multilateral Projects of the European Commission.

### **Duration**

The total duration of the project will be 2 years. The project will be finalised in October 2010

### **Progress so far**

All project partners met for the CoRe II kick-off meeting in January 2009 in The Hague. The meeting was launched with a word of welcome from Nuffic Communications Director Hanneke Teekens.

This was followed by presentations from representatives from both the Tuning and NARIC networks to inform all other partners about developments in their work that are relevant for the discussion. In particular, the Tuning process has made significant progress in defining competences and learning outcomes, in setting up a draft degree profile, and in measuring achievement of competences (identified by indicators). The ECA/NVAO was also invited to present their project - TEAM II – which has one of its goals to link the recognition to learning outcomes through benchmarking exercises.

Several considerations and related matters were brought up during the discussion, with the purpose of formulating the mandate for the working group. Finally it was decided that Nuffic and UK NARIC would look into the questions regarding the degree profile, glossary and guidelines as preparatory (research) work to the working group. This proposal was submitted to the working group in early March and will form the foundations of the work to be completed.

For any further questions or information relating to CoRe II, please email Jenneke Lokhoff at [jlokhoff@nuffic.nl](mailto:jlokhoff@nuffic.nl) or Kate Bellamy at [kate.bellamy@naric.org.uk](mailto:kate.bellamy@naric.org.uk).

