

CORE II

Newsletter 2

“Progress update CoRE II. The test phase”



Since the last newsletter, the project has advanced considerably. A first draft version of the guide has been produced and is currently being tested. We are therefore in the middle of phase 2, the **test phase**. This newsletter will give you an update on the test phase as well as other news, such as the website.

The test phase

The ‘test phase’ is vital for improving the guide for its final version, because it involves the testing of the first draft of the guide by representatives of higher education institutions, the main end users. The test phase started officially in November 2009 when the first draft of the Guide was sent to the test team.

The test team consists out of 9 higher education institutions that have volunteered to test the guide in the fields of *history*, *physics* and *nursing*. These are the official test partners:

Physics:

- Radboud University Nijmegen, The Netherlands;
- University of Bucharest, Romania;
- Imperial College, United Kingdom.

Nursing:

- VIA University College, Risskov, Denmark;
- University of West Bohemia, Czech Republic;
- Universiteit Gent, Belgium.

History:

- University of Oulu, Finland;
- University of Toulouse, France;
- Karadeniz Technical University, Trabzon, Turkey.

In addition, several universities have volunteered to test the guide in the field of history. The feedback of all these test partners is enormously valuable for the outcome of the project. In order to get as much feedback as possible, the core working group of the project and the test partners met halfway through the testing phase to discuss and evaluate the usefulness and user-friendliness of the guide for filling in the degree profile.

Test-phase meeting

On the 20th and 21st of January 2010 the core working group and the test partners met in The Hague, in the Nuffic office. The goal of the meeting was to share and find examples of best practice on how to fill in the degree profile as well as to discuss the user-friendliness of the guide.

As a preparation for the meeting, the 9 official as well as all the volunteering test partners were given the draft version of the guide and asked to fill in the degree profile for some of their degree programmes. Degree profiles were repeatedly received for all three cycles (Bachelor, Master, PhD). The examples of filled in degree profiles were distributed to all participants of the meeting as a preparation and to identify examples of good practice.



Day 1 focused on parts C (Competences) and F (Learning Outcomes) of the degree profile, while discussions on day 2 centered on the remaining entries and on the general improvements to be made to increase the Guides' user-friendliness. In order to achieve the objectives of the meeting, each subject area formed a working group to discuss the examples provided by their subject area in the format of a little workshop. The Tuning partners as well as Nuffic and UK NARIC participated in these workshops and each working group reported back their findings and identified examples of good practice to the plenary discussion. This served to find agreement on how to improve the Guide and on a set of examples to be included as best practice.

What is next?

Generally it was found that large parts of the Guide have to be rewritten in order to be clearer and more concise. This will be tackled in the remaining time of phase 2. Meanwhile a new version of the template for the degree profile was circulated to the test partners after the meeting to improve their degree profiles. This second testing round is currently taking place and comes to a conclusion at the end of March 2010. Afterwards the project will enter phase 3 which will concentrate on producing the final version of the Guide. This version will then go for consultation to the working group and the ENIC/NARIC network. The final version of the Guide is scheduled to be published in autumn 2010 on the project's website (<http://www.core-project.eu/>) where it is available to end-users and other interested stakeholders.



Participants of the test phase meeting in The Hague.

Website

The CoRe2 website has recently been given a make over. The layout has been changed to a more modern and comprehensive design. The information on the website has been updated and various recent project documents have been uploaded, for instance the latest draft of the degree profile. You can also find other documents, such as agendas of meetings, presentations or a progress report on the website. Please visit our new website at <http://www.core-project.eu/>.

For any further questions or information relating to CoRe II, please email Jenneke Lokhoff at jlokhoff@nuffic.nl or Katja Durkin at katja.durkin@naric.org.uk.

