

CORE II

Newsletter 3

CoRe II Progress Update: The final phase



Progress to date

CoRe II is nearing completion. The ‘final draft phase’, which officially started in March, has seen the Guide transform, in terms of both structure and content, in direct response to feedback from the test rounds. The completed final draft of the Guide is due to be published shortly, following further testing and review by the project partners.

Test Partners

In order to ensure broad and comprehensive feedback, test Partners were selected from universities across a wide range of European countries, each representing one of the three Tuning subjects.

Representatives for History included:

- Seija Jalagin from the University of Oulu, Finland
- Jack Thomas from the University of Toulouse, France
- Kenan Inan from Karadeniz Technical University, Turkey

Representatives for Physics:

- Laura Tugulea from the University of Bucharest, Romania
- Hay Geurts from Radboud University Nijmegen, The Netherlands
- Gareth Jones, Imperial College London, United Kingdom

Representatives for Nursing:

- Frederik de Decker from the Ghent University Association, Belgium
- Birgitte Hindsgaul, Inger-Margrethe Jensen and Kirsten Mathiesen Bjerg from VIA University College, Denmark

Results of the Test Phase

The general feedback to the Guide was positive, with key areas for improvement highlighted during the test phases. Particular focus on ensuring the Guide was a practical tool for busy academic staff, raised concerns amongst the test partners over the length of the Guide. With the same focus in mind, it was recognised that the language and tone of the Guide should be more user-centred, and less complicated and theoretically based.

Describing Programme Learning Outcomes: A Breakthrough

During the testing phase, varying country interpretations and distinctions of key terms such as *Programme Learning Outcomes* and *knowledge* and *competences* emerged, potentially leading to problems upon completion of the Degree Profile. Therefore, revision of Sections E and F was accepted in order to provide clarity on the definitions, conforming to those commonly accepted and understood by academic staff: the intended users of the Guide

It was agreed to define *Programme Learning Outcomes* as “*statements of what the graduate of the Programme demonstrably knows, understands and is capable of doing when they have successfully completed the Degree Programme*”.

To ensure clarity and consistency, definitions of the key terms used in the Guide have been repeated verbatim in the Guide’s glossary.

Meetings

Two project meetings were held in this phase: the first, held on 4th June 2010 in Amsterdam, involved the project leaders and the Tuning partners. The second meeting involved the full core working group and was held at the NUFFIC office in The Hague on 12th – 13th August 2010.

The objective of the first meeting was to discuss and agree on the final version of the Guide. Further discussions concerning sections A – D, and the introduction and structure of the guide were held, with a heavier focus on revising the instructions for sections E and F of the profile and the annexes,

The goal of the final meeting was to address the feedback given during the second test phase through agreed solutions for the issues raised to enhance the accessibility of the guide. Consideration was also given to the project’s dissemination strategy.

Finalising the Guide

Following group analysis of the feedback, the user-friendliness of the Tuning created Degree Profile Guide has been considerably improved. Such enhancements involved revising sections of the text to make the Guide clearer and more concise. An additional annex has also been created to provide background information on learning outcomes. Furthermore, exemplar Degree Profiles have been moved from the main body of the Guide to the Annex, with completed examples of the Degree Profile for the three selected Tuning subject areas (Nursing, Physics and History), providing a useful and practical reference for users. Degree Profile examples for Bachelor, Master and Doctoral degrees are included for each subject, allowing users to clearly identify the progression of the programme purpose, learning outcomes and other sections at different levels. A sample Degree Profile was completed for a Bachelor Degree in Modern History from the University of Utopia and has been uploaded to the website. It was decided that in all sample Profiles in the Guide, fictional institutions and countries would be used.

Following review of the Guide by the project consortium and members of the ENIC / NARIC network, it is envisaged that the final version of the Guide will be published as a Tuning brochure as well as on the CoRe website by the end of this year.

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.