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**HIGHER EDUCATION CAPACITY BUILDING**

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# Erasmus+ Project
# New and Innovative Curricula in Precision Agriculture
# (NICOPA)

**WP3 - Quality Control**

Recommendations for quality assessment of implementation
of new and modernized curricula modules

Prepared by: ECM Space Technologies GmbH

# Recommendations for target universities regarding quality assessment of implementation of new and modernized curricula/courses/modules

### 1. Quality Group

Create a quality group in your university that will be responsible for the quality level of each new or modernized curricula/courses/modules in the target field. Possible quality group's members:

- Students (1-2 persons)
- Alumni (1-2 persons)
- Teaching staff (2-3 persons)
- Potential employers (1-2 persons)

- Non-academic partners/other organizations that have an appropriate qualification an competence/experience in the curricula development in the target field (other universities, research centers, hospitals, ministries, etc) – (1-2 persons)

**Quality groups organize implementation of the following tasks:**

- Constant control of implementation of tasks
- Need analysis
- Review analysis of current curricula
- List of curricula/courses/modules that should be modernized
- List of new curricula/courses/modules that should be developed
- Plan of modernization and development of curricula/courses/modules
- Implementation of modernization and development of curricula/courses/modules with participation of teaching stuff that took part in the trainings in European universities
- Ensuring of communication with the labor market, potential employers and other organizations during implementation of the tasks
- Regular conducting of meetings, negotiations regarding the tasks
- Conducting of surveys of target groups in order to learn about their opinion regarding curricula/courses/modules modernization/development
- Studying of teaching material received from the European consortium partners; summarizing, studying and disseminating of the information received on the trainings in the European universities

- Studying of national/international educational standards, as well as recommendation of Bologna process
- Studying of the latest (up to 5 years old) results of scientific research of foreign scientists
- Organization and implementation of peer review (see 3)

**Suggested template for the quality group list:**

| Name, Surname | Occupation | Organization | Contact info (email) |
|---|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

2. **Quality Indicators**

Develop your indicators for quality assessment of implementation of each new/ modernized curricula/courses/modules or curricula package in the target field. Develop them BEFORE creating new modules/courses/curricula or modernizing the old ones. While developing/modernizing modules/courses/curricula, you should not only use your basic information, but also take into consideration your quality indicators; develop/modernize your modules/courses/curricula according to these indicators.

There are POSSIBLE indicators below, you should take them in consideration and develop YOUR OWN set of indicators that would fully assess each of your new/modernized modules/courses/curricula. You can of course take the indicators from the suggested list, if you think they can be useful for you:

1) Balance of student's workload: theory, practical work (not less than 50%), individual work, internship in a company, testing system
2) Application of ECTS by developing new modules/courses/curricula or modernizing the old ones
3) Usage of information about the latest (up to 5 years old) results of scientific research of foreign scientists in teaching materials
4) Usage of the university online educational platform during the educational process

5) Ability of students to influence the educational content or process. For instance, ability of students to choose a topic of reporting or practical works, to attend elective modules/courses.

6) Partial teaching and implementation of reporting works in English

7) Portfolio of student's completed practical works in a group

8) Correspondence to the national norms (standards) of education

9) Consideration of a new module by the university council of experts with the participation of potential employers (chair meeting, meeting of educational council)

10) Publications of teaching staff or students, participation in conferences on the module's topics

## 3. Peer evaluation of new/modernized modules/courses/curricula

### 3.1. Potential peer reviewers:

• Create a list of potential peer reviewers (organizations or persons) that you consider competent enough to conduct a peer review of your new/modernized modules/courses/curricula. These could be representatives of research centers, universities in your country and outside your country, hospitals, ministries, etc.

• Define 1-3 peer reviewers and conduct negotiations with them of when to send them materials for a peer review

**Suggested template of the list:**

| Organization (Name, Surname) | Contact info (email) | Planned date of peer review |
|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

### 3.2. What to provide for a peer review

**You have to provide at least:**

1) Curricula description

2) List of quality indicators

3) Selected documents, which will correspond and support your quality indicators. You have to decide YOURSELF which accompanying documents suit best.

4) **Quality assessment of implementation of new and modernized modules/courses/curricula: Peer review template -** This template will allow peer reviewers to give quality assessment of each curricula module.

**Award system of the peer review:**
- Each module is assessed by each of your quality indicators.
- Five-point grading scale is used for the assessment (5 is the highest (excellent) point, 0- the lowest).
  This five-point grading scale should assess each indicator.
- After the assessment of all indicators, all points that they received should be summarized and divided by the amount of indicators. Therefore, you will get an arithmetic mean, which will be a "grade" for your module.
- Besides, peer reviewers should explain in details their scores and leave their recommendations, suggestions about what should be done better in order to improve a module.

## Quality assessment of implementation of new and modernized modules/courses/curricula. Peer review template

## (Example):

| Name of the university: |
| --- |
| Module/curriculum/course title:<br>Xxxxxxxxxxx |

| Award criteria: | Score | Max |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Indicator 1: Balance of student's workload** | 4 | 5 |
| Comments/recommendations of a peer reviewer | | |

|  |  |  |
|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |
| **Indicator 2: Application of ECTS** | 4 | 5 |
| Comments/recommendations of a peer reviewer | | |
| **Indicator 3: Usage of information about the latest (up to 5 years old) results of scientific research of foreign scientists in teaching materials** | 3 | 5 |
| Comments/recommendations of a peer reviewer | | |
| **Indicator 4: Usage of the university online educational platform during the educational process** | 5 | 5 |
| Comments/recommendations of a peer reviewer | | |
| **Indicator 5: Ability of students to influence the educational content or process** | 4 | 5 |
| Comments/recommendations of a peer reviewer | | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Indicator 6: Partial teaching and implementation of reporting works in English** | 4 | 5 |
| Comments/recommendations of a peer reviewer | | |
| **Indicator 7: Portfolio of student's completed practical works in a group** | 4 | 5 |
| Comments/recommendations of a peer reviewer | | |
| **Indicator 8: Correspondence to the national norms (standards) of education** | 4 | 5 |
| Comments/recommendations of a peer reviewer | | |
| **Indicator 9: Consideration of a new module by the university council of experts with the participation of potential employers (chair meeting, meeting of educational council)** | 3 | 5 |
| Comments/recommendations of a peer reviewer | | |
| **Indicator 10: Publications of teaching staff or students, participation in conferences** | 5 | 5 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Comments/recommendations of a peer reviewer | | |
| **Total score:** | **40 (max. 50)** | |
| **Number of indicators** | **10** | |
| **Arithmetic Mean** | **4\*** | |
| **Summary of the peer reviewer:** | | |

Score of the Module "XXXXXX" = 40

Number of quality indicators: 10

*40/10 = 4 (arithmetic mean = "grade" of xxxxx module)