



The European Dictionary on Skills and Competences (DISCO)

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Abstract

The European Dictionary of Skills and Competences (DISCO) offers a much needed standardised vocabulary for the description of skills and competences (www.disco-tools.eu) and a website where learners can search for the translation of terms in seven (later on ten) European languages. DISCO website users may describe their competence profile, based on the standardised vocabulary of DISCO, store it in Europass CV format and translate it into other languages via a mouse click. The thesaurus structure supports the understanding of a field of interest and increases the awareness for skills and competences that could be relevant too.

The Dictionary of Skills and Competences is based on existing standards and classifications and is useful for describing competences in different contexts: for the description of occupations, personal competence profiles, the requirements for a job as well as for the description of learning outcomes, Diploma and Certificate Supplements. DISCO supports not only the comparability of competences acquired in an educational or work context but also the transferability of competence descriptions within Europe.

DISCO is based on a comprehensive understanding of skills and competences that includes personal attitudes, values, behavioural patterns etc., independent of whether they have been acquired formally or informally. The thesaurus consists of about 10.000 terms (about 7.000 preferred terms and 3.000 synonyms), per language for seven European languages: Czech, English, French, German, Hungarian, Lithuanian, and Swedish. Within the DISCO II project (Nov. 2010 – Oct. 2012) three more languages (Italian, Slovakian, Spanish) and new competence descriptions for the booming branches health and social work, environmental protection and information technology will be included.

During our presentation we would like to briefly present the main aims of the DISCO project and discuss different usage scenarios of the terminology within the educational context based on examples from career guidance, language teaching and curricula development.