



Using ICT Solutions for Better Defined and Assessed Qualifications in Higher Education

Margareta Simona Ivan, Sorin Eugen Zaharia

National Authority for Qualifications (Romania)

margareta.ivan@anc.gov.ro, sorin.zaharia@gmail.com

Today's students are "digital natives". They come in the classroom and to the exam armed with smart phones, laptops, iPads, iPods, etc. The new and innovative technologies allow them to become more and more involved in building their own knowledge, skills and competences. On the other hand we are witnessing the emergence of a new world of work that requires new qualifications closely linked with the immersive computing environment, non-conventional energies, new materials, bio-combustible etc.

The presence in the universities of a generation of students that have never known a life without computer and the global competition will have a major impact on teaching and assessment methodologies as well as on the curricula content in the next 5-10 years.

The universities are facing a major challenge: not only to equip students with an adequate education in their field of study, but to arm them with the transversal skills and competences required by the Hi-tech economy and its technology workforce.

In Romania, several ESF funded strategic projects have been conceived and implemented in order to persuade the academia to take the plunge from the "Ivory Tower" into the economic and social world: adapt the curricula, adopt multimodal teaching, propose a sophisticated model of assessment, be in permanent contact with the labour market, design new qualifications before the latter asks for these.

The ESF project DECIS - *Building capacity for the implementation of the higher education qualifications system* has as overall objective to restructure and improve the higher education system by implementing the National Qualifications Framework and re-mapping the entire system according to the labour market requirements. In this regards we will present some ICT based tools proposed to the academia: online register for the higher education qualifications, online training for defining qualifications based on the Knowledge, Skills and Competences (KSC) model, online platform in order to assess the KSC and the qualifications, etc. and to what extent this top-down model has been accepted or not by the universities.