



Virtual Mobility Accreditation - Quality Assurance Model

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To improve virtual mobility on a global scale there is a need to develop a number of reference tools to help institutions, employers, professional organizations and learners. The model described in this Knowledge Share Moment (KSM) proposes a number of recommendations and a set of common principles for application in the fields of learning outcomes, quality assurance in higher education and in continuing education, quality of assessment and the recognition of qualifications abroad. The model intends to provide a working frame for virtual mobility that contributes to higher education institutions and to continuing education providers that offer online courses. It is currently under web implementation at <http://taloe.up.pt>.

Example of application:

- Engineer in Italy wants to learn about project management; searches for options in other countries; engineer uses the model proposed in project Virqual (<http://virqual.up.pt>) to verify if courses are in compliance with credit transfer system and with the learning outcomes description.
- Chooses a virtual course in France that provides competences of the level of a master's degree; the engineer verifies if the competences are assessed according with the referred model.
- With the certificate of completion of the training, the engineer wants to apply for a job in Finland that requires the competences provided by the course; employer in Finland verifies, using the referred model, if the course attended by the prospective employee comprises the competences required.

The potential benefits are to enable users to:

- a) Use the learning outcomes or competences of the virtual course to ensure the competences acquired;
- b) Relate the competences acquired during training or learning with the required professional or academic competences;
- c) Transfer the recognition of the competences to any employer or academic institution anywhere in the world.