

The Salzburg principles. 8

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The promotion of innovative structures: to meet the challenge of interdisciplinary training and the development of transferable skills.



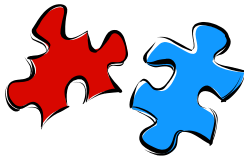
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The core question at the beginning of the reflection: how we understand “skills” (or “competences”)?. 2



Looking for competence (including skills) means looking beyond knowledge: the use of knowledge.

Competences = the learning horizon.

They use the content as its raw material.

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Transferable (or generic, or soft) competences. Their role nowadays.



-Since are related to communication and values mainly, are the most demanded competences for the society, at all levels of education.

-Being applicable to all of the fields of knowledge, transferable competences are an important tool to help interdisciplinarity to grow.

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Main open issues from the Bologna seminar about doctoral programs. 1

“Some university representatives argue that doctoral candidates cannot acquire transferable skills in courses, but only in everyday work by doing research and related activities such as teaching, writing, active participating in seminars, conferences and projects, etc. (“learning by doing approach”).”



Learning by doing can also be applied in PhD programs, that not must consist in theoretical courses only, but including learning activities based on competences.

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Main open issues from the Bologna seminar about doctoral programs. 2

“Although there may be a disagreement among university representatives whether courses in transferable skills should be mandatory or voluntary, all agree that it is very important to offer these courses to all doctoral candidates”.



From the last argumentation, the PhD programs must contain activities to develop transferable competences, and with compulsory character, as a crucial part of the educational program.

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Main open issues from the Bologna seminar about doctoral programs. 3

“Most university representatives agreed that ECTS, if used in doctoral programmes at all, should be restricted to the structured course-part of doctoral programmes (e.g., courses in transferable skills).”



It depends on the structure on PhD programs. Also the research plan to the thesis must be competence oriented

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We need an approach to base PhD programs on competences. 1



Step 1. Decide which transferable competences to develop into PhD programs. With very clear formulation, in evaluable way. The same set of transferable competences can be applied in the different PhD programs of the institution (to the interdisciplinarity)

Step 2. Decide which activities, among the set of activities of the PhD program, will be connected to each transferable competence, and how to evaluate their progress.

Step 3. Carry out the planned activities , monitoring the growing of the competences.

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We need an approach to base PhD programs on competences. 2



Courses centered in topics related to transferable competences can be offered complementarily, but the crucial point where favor the growing in transferable competences in into the activities of the program.

The same approach can be applied to the previous educational levels (master programs, bachelors,...) This coincidence will give consistence and coherence to our global educational system.

Thank you for your attention

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