OCTRA – Final Conference

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The foci of OCTRA

- The OCTRA project explored already existing publicly available online course catalogues in the project countries in the context of recognition of qualifications

- This project promotes dialogue with HEIs to improve their online course catalogues for the use of recognition of qualifications

- The project also analysed existing NQDs and other online information sources in the project partner countries from the perspective of credential evaluation

Conclusions based on:

- Desk-top research concerning national situation
- Online survey of HEIs (in total 258 HEIs)
- In-depth case studies of online course catalogues (28)
- Non-structured interviews with ENIC and NARIC experts
- Discussions between project partners

Conclusions

HEIs see advantages of having on-line course catalogues

Most HEIs already have on-line course catalogues

Main purposes of on-line course catalogues:
- to keep track of study courses

- to attract new students (advertisement)

- as information exchange platform for present students and/or academic personnel

Conclusions

Legal framework in the partner countries stipulating HEIs to elaborate publicly available course catalogues is poorly developed

Lack of national level recommendations or guidelines about online course catalogues

The ECTS User's Guide does not ensure sufficient methodological support in terms of designing online course catalogues

Poor understanding or varied understanding of the concept of course catalogue among HEIs (and ENIC/NARIC centres)

Diverse course catalogues at institutional and national level as regards content, functions, design, layout, availability etc.

Conclusions

Information published by most HEIs

- Title of the course
- Short description of the course
- ECTS (and other credits if they differ from ECTS)
- Learning outcomes
- Field of study

Information NOT or rarely published by HEIs

- Legal status of the HEI
- External quality assurance
- Formal rights granted to graduates

NAWA

National qualifications databases and alternative information sources on qualifications

- 3 project partners developed National Qualifications Databases (NQDs)

- Different legal status and purpose of the NQDs

- Information on formal qualifications but no information on courses and modules

- Most project partners have alternative information sources on qualifications

- In many cases information is published only in national language

- Databases have different structures and use different methodologies to describe qualifications

- Not all information necessary for credential evaluators is provided