Students' Perspective on Course Catalogue

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What is Course Catalogue?

The Course Catalogue is a unified descriptive document which includes up to date, detailed, user friendly, easily findable by anyone and comparable information about HEI and the programmes it provides.

What is important for students?

The ideal Course Catalogue is:
1) Easily accessible for every student and prospective student
2) User friendly and inclusive in different languages and considering students with special needs
3) Standardised, so it is comparable
4) Up to date

This way it helps students to find their academic pathway and HEI of choice, to understand similarities and differences between programmes offered by different HEIs. It supports an individual seeking recognition of their prior learning and planning a mobility programme, moreover, it can serve as a relevant tool in automatic recognition.

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What it should contain?

- **General information** about the HEI
- **List of programmes** offered
- **Cost** of the programme, if it is not free
- **Entry requirements** for each programme
- Their **duration**
- Their **level** according to the EQF, NQF, QF LLL
- **ECTS** allocation
- **Learning outcomes**

What it should contain?

- **Language** and **mode** of the study
- **Qualifications** to be acquired
- **Recognition** of the learning outcomes at the home institution for the mobile students
- **Hyperlinks** to the detailed description of each programme on separate pages
- Additional information on **housing, transportation and student organisations**

What the Programme Profile should contain?

- ECTS allocation and legal framework
- Standard duration of the programme
- List of modules with semesters they are offered on
- Language of the module
- Indication of mandatory, elective and facultative modules
- Detailed learning outcomes for each module or course, including transversal/interdisciplinary skills

What the Programme Profile should contain?

- Workload
- Recommendations for the progressing
- Information about mobility possibilities
- Course descriptions, including syllabus, bibliography, assessment and evaluation, procedures of recognition of prior learning

What are the barriers for the Course Catalogue implementation?

1) Lack of **legal framework** on the national and institutional levels
2) Lack of **trust** between HEIs
3) Different **interpretation** of the guidelines e.g. stakeholders responsible for implementation are unclear
4) Stakeholders are **not involved** in designing the catalogues, and/or they are not asked for feedback

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What could be the solutions?

1) **Policies** fostering inter-institutional trust
2) **Laws** enforcing standardisation and transparency
3) **Trainings** for the HEI staff on creating the course catalogues
4) Creating a **policy cycle calendar** - each year, when is the course catalogue updated, by whom, when, when it is published, when it is reviewed etc.
5) Students and QA agencies **involvement** in the assessment and re-evaluation of existing Course Catalogues
6) **Assessing HEI** against the indicator of Course Catalogue requirements compliance

Thank you!

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