

## **RATIONALE**

**An event jointly organised by EURASHE, the Czech Association of Schools of Professional Higher Education (CASPE) and the College of Nursing (VŠZ)**

### Learning Outcomes within PHE context

Issues of learning outcomes and employability have been given a core attention in EURASHE's policy documents, reflecting the recent developments within the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) and the position of EURASHE as the representative of professional higher education (PHE).

Building study programmes on the basis of labour market needs, translation of these requirements into expected learning outcomes and adopting relevant methods of teaching & learning including practical elements, adequate methods of students' assessment, as well as their reflection in quality assurance seem to be profiling characteristics of PHE throughout Europe.

EURASHE has paid attention to these issues on the systemic policy level, running the project on mapping generic characteristics of PHE across Europe (HAPHE project<sup>1</sup>), reflecting European policy documents on higher education developments and competitiveness. In 2013 efforts concentrated on better understanding issues of graduates' employability resulting into a draft policy statement. However, the external limitations and conditions, as well as practice in different countries and institutions seem to differ.

Policy statement and conferences may provide a good basis for further discussion; yet provide very little opportunity to share concrete experience and practices. Thus, there comes the proposal to bring together a group of practitioners in order to allow them to discuss challenges, barriers as well as good practices, to learn from each other, build new contacts – but also to get from the discussion more inspiration and input for further policy endeavours of EURASHE at European level. The event is also a part of EURASHE's efforts to provide more practically oriented events and strengthen its communication with institutions, in particular its members.

This EURASHE Community of Practice Workshop on Learning Outcomes within PHE Context will propose discussions and debates on the following topics: reflection of labour market needs, promotion of graduates' employability, learning outcomes translation into content, methods of learning and assessment in PHE.

### Workshop proceedings

A Community of Practice Workshop should be based on a few presentations of practice in different countries and institutions providing PHE, which should feed into further discussion of participants in small groups and consequent plenary sessions.

The Community of Practice Workshop is a new format for sharing experience within EURASHE events; it should allow participants to share and discuss their concrete experience and practices as regards reflections of labour market needs in learning outcomes, curricula, methods of teaching & learning and students' assessment, as well as used practices regarding reflection of these key aspects within accreditation and evaluation procedures.

In the working groups, the discussions will centre around issues of labour market needs mapping, their reflection in learning outcomes and curricula, approaches to evaluation of relevance and achievements as regards learning outcomes and practical aspects of education, experience with different methods of delivery of the courses and assessment of students' performance.

Considering the novelty of the format within EURASHE events and the focus on specific stream of higher/tertiary education we are expecting participants ranging from representatives of EURASHE member institutions who are in charge of pedagogical matters, curricula development and their assessment; to representatives of other higher education institutions providing professionally oriented courses.

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<sup>1</sup> See also <http://haphe.eurashe.eu>



It is expected that the experience and evaluation of the workshop will allow developing the core of the Community of Practice, which should continue in sharing the experience on teaching & learning in professionally oriented programmes and courses at higher education institutions.