

Joint NARIC and ENQA Diploma Supplement Project

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Aim of the Project

To study the Diploma Supplement and produce information, best-practises and tools in order to

1. support HEIs in drawing up and developing their Diploma Supplements;
2. increase the usability and relevance of the DS for study and labour market purposes.

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Participants

1. The project steering group is compiled of representatives of NARICs (from Finland, France and Turkey) and ENQA.
2. The entire project group also has representatives from ESU, EUA , EURASHE and Business Europe.

Project Content

1. Collecting examples of real Diploma Supplements issued to graduates (April-May)
2. Reading through and analysing the DS examples: identifying how they communicate information to the reader, and how useful the information is to the different users: HEIs, students, credential evaluators, and the labour market (June-July)
3. Study visits to HEIs that have particularly well established processes and procedures for issuing Diploma Supplements (September-October)
4. Compiling the findings into a document to serve the HEIs around Europe (November-December)

Initial Findings: Cross-reading

- Reading/analysis of 26 DS-examples from 22 countries
- Quality generally good, but space for improvement:
 1. Nature of the DS too “national”; main audience international & outside HE
 2. Information relevant to labour market missing / insufficient
 3. Readability & clarity could be improved
 4. Parts of the DS missing or inaccurately filled in

Initial Findings: Cross-reading

The analysis also showed that there is an obvious need for international cooperation and QA work:

Current international guidelines not sufficient
= misunderstandings and / or different interpretations of how the DS model should be used

→ Some parts more “demanding” than others

→ Significant variations in quality

Initial Findings: Study Visits

- Study visits to three universities (Finland, France, Turkey)
- Aim was to collect information and good practises
- Attention should be paid to:
 1. Process / compiling of the DS; Information included in the DS, such as learning outcomes; Division of responsibilities; QA etc.
 2. Expectations and needs of stakeholders
 3. The HEIs own interest and motivation to develop the DS vital
 4. National support & guidance importance

Initial Findings: Recommendations

1. Need for better international guidance; examples and good practises made available to all HEIs
2. Role of national guidance should be strengthened
3. Promoting the DS
4. DS should be included into the QA work & processes of HEIs
5. Quality, readability and clarity of the DS should be worked on
→ aimed at the users, national and international and often outside HE
6. Emphasis on learning outcomes
7. Personalised information distinguishing the graduate from others

Thank you!

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