

NICE Tuning Project 2.0



by Johannes Katsarov

The "Tuning Project" (as the largest project of our network from 2012 to 2015) continues some of the most central work of our network which we already began in 2009 and which took its first climax in the publication of the "NICE (Tuning) Handbook" in 2012. The ultimate goal is to promote quality in the academic training of CGC practitioners and also develop our own competence as managers, teachers and coordinators active in such degree programs.

The Tuning Project 2.0 is coordinated by the "Tuning Coordination Group" (TCG), which came together first in Berlin from April 18-19 in 2013 to develop a roadmap for NICE 2. The members of the TCG are Sif Einarsdóttir (IS), Johannes Katsarov (DE), Rachel Mulvey (UK), Kestutis Pukelis (LT), Christiane Schiersmann (DE) and Peter Weber (DE). They will coordinate the different sub-projects related to Tuning 2.0 in our network and edit the next edition of the NICE Handbook.

For the members of the TCG, the first thing we had to do was to work out why that's what the group is called! "Tuning up" is what musicians do before they play together. The link below captures this process very clearly <http://youtu.be/KfSH1ezvjM> and illustrates how many different players, producing sound in different ways, still use a common point of

reference to work out from and come back to.

Our central objective for NICE 2 is to develop our first achievements further while beginning to implement and use them at the same time, and promoting them throughout Europe. The Tuning Project 2.0 is made up of three closely connected sub-projects:

1. Common Points of Reference (String A):

The development of a more elaborated curricular framework for the development of new and existing degree programs in career guidance and counselling (CGC) and for increasing transferability between CGC degree programs.

2. Tuning Instruments (String B): The development of a meta-model for the assessment of competence development and other aspects of program quality, including the collection and systemization of suitable instruments and tools.

3. Peer-Learning Community (String C): Development and testing of a peer-learning model to promote the mutual support of network partners in developing the quality of degree programmes around Europe.

These three sub-projects are coordinated by different members of the TCG who will report independently in the coming newsletters.

How the different sub-projects fit together has been explained in detail in a roadmap prepared at the first meeting in Berlin (see above).

At the Istanbul Conference this roadmap was presented to the



other members of the network. Yet, the primary focus was on getting the network members involved in the project. In an "organized graffiti" session, various network members presented how they are already using the common points of reference from NICE 1. Next, all network members joined discussions on the different sub-projects in five working groups, and began working out ideas and plans for the next year.

Currently, the three working groups belonging to Tuning 2.0 are actively developing concepts to reach their different objectives. For the development of competence levels (String A) a so-called "Consistent Tuning Model" is currently being worked out, a theoretical and practical framework which all members of the network can use to describe detailed competences and learning outcomes for different qualification levels. The members of the responsible team met in Kaunas (LT) from November 21-22 to finalize this model and to prepare the involvement of all other network members in the following months. The Tuning Instruments Team (String B) came together in London (UK) from December 9-10. The Peer-Learning Team (String C) is currently conducting online-workshops to experiment with different peer-learning approaches and is collecting case studies on the use of the common points of reference from NICE 1. A workshop in Budapest is being planned for April 2014.

