

BELL CURVE

(Built Environment Lifelong Learning Challenging University Responses to Vocational Education)



The mismatch between graduate skills and labour market requirements has been identified as one of the main factors behind graduate unemployment and employer dissatisfaction, particularly in the Built Environment (BE) sector.

In addressing this, BELL CURVE considers 'student engagement' as a continuous through-life process rather than a temporary traditional engagement limited by the course duration. This through-life studentship defines the essence of the new innovative "Lifelong University" concept, whereby providing an opportunity for learners to acquire and develop skills and knowledge enabling responds to changing construction labour market needs on a continuous basis.

Project Aim

BELL CURVE aims to promote the concept of 'lifelong university' in modernising Higher Education Institutes (HEI) to be more responsive to labour market skills needs. 'Lifelong university' encourages graduates who are either employed or unemployed to inform their university on labour market skill requirements. This will provide the opportunity for HEIs to be appropriately responsive to provide the right mix of skills for the labour market through training and retraining programmes.

Project Objectives

The project will focus on governance reforms in HEIs delivering Built Environment programmes across the EU, while emphasising the ERASMUS programme's objective: to contribute to the development of quality lifelong learning and to promote high performance, innovation and a European dimension in systems and practices in the field.

This aim will be achieved through the following objectives:

- > To develop a framework for HEI's to promote the concept of lifelong university in capturing and responding to labour market skill needs in the Built Environment.
- > To refine, test and validate the developed framework through existing HEI Built Environment programmes
- > To provide recommendations on governance reforms for HEIs to become 'continuing education centres' for graduates while responding to labour market skill needs.

WORK PACKAGES



WP1 (lead by Salford)

Project Management

To manage and coordinate the delivery process of project outcomes and collaboration of project partners. This includes management of other work packages, resources, project planning, execution and monitoring to ensure the successful achievement of the project outcomes. Project administration will be in place to manage the finances and other physical resources.

WP2 (lead by Salford)

Framework Development and Refinement

To minimise the mismatch between the graduates' qualifications offered by HEIs and the labour market skill needs exist in the EU construction industry

WP3 (lead by Estonia)

Research Dissemination and Exploitation

To operationalise the framework developed during WP2 for its validation. It also involves the dissemination of the project results via VEBER and project website.

WP4 (lead by Lithuania)

Quality Assurance

To ensure the quality of the project activities throughout the duration of the project.

WP5 (lead by all 3)

Academic Dissemination

To communicate the initial, intermediate and final outcomes of the project to a wider community via different publicising modes



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