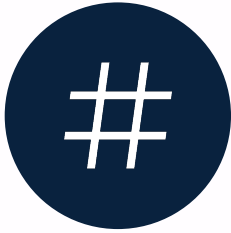# The Quality-Link Project: Towards Open Standards for Quality Information and Recognition

Jochen Ehrenreich (DHBW) &
Colin Tück (KIC)

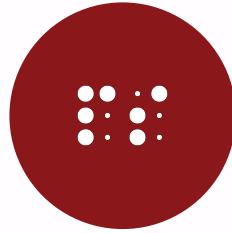EDEN Annual Conference, 17 June 2024

QualityLink

Current challenges

Hard/impossible to match courses across different platforms

Even basic course data is often not published in structured form

Some data (student ratings, recognition history, …) rarely published at all

Current challenges

Quality
certifications
mostly not awarded
as digital labels

Limited examples
of information
shared using open
data standards

Directories rarely
use information
from external
services

Objectives & Values

QualityLink

- empower stakeholders

- provide comprehensive and relevant quality data

- create open and interoperable standards

- promote a seamless environment to use data

⭐ Quality

🏃 Competition

🧍 Student-centric approach

🔍 Transparency

❤️ Openness and inclusivity

🛢️ Democratise access to quality data

Our Roadmap

- Quality domains and indicators

- Indicator ranking with students and other stakeholders

- Standards Consultation Board

- Technical standards:

  - course identification

  - basic trusted metadata

  - publication of quality data

- Testing of the proposed standards

- Prototype platform

QualityLink

Quality Domains and Indicators

1) Content Relevance, Labour Market Demand and Accuracy

2) Teaching Methods and Pedagogy

3) Accessibility and Inclusivity

4) Learner-Centred Approach, Satisfaction and Success

5) Institutional Reputation

Level of similarity of micro-credential skills/learning outcomes with those identified in forecasts (numeric scale)

The ratio of students per academic staff (numeric)

Ratio of students from a disadvantaged socio-economic background (numeric)

Grade distribution table, following ECTS Users' Guide practices (numeric)

HEIs that have recognised the micro-credential, e.g. towards a larger degree programme (numeric, list + links)

Search by keyword

Enter keyword

Type of provider

- ☒ *Option 1*
- ☐ *Option 2*
- ☐ *Option 3*

Learning opportunity type

- ☒ *Option 1*
- ☐ *Option 2*
- ☐ *Option 3*
- ☐ *Option 3*
- ☐ *Option 3*

Learning outcome type

Select type ⌄

Language

Select language ⌄

Dimension subset item

Select item ⌄

Suggested Courses

| Topic (ICT/other) | Topic (ICT/other) | Topic (ICT/other) |

Title of course

- 🏢 Provider of course
- 🌐 Language
- 🕐 Workload in h

Application status: Open

Title of course

- 🏢 Provider of course
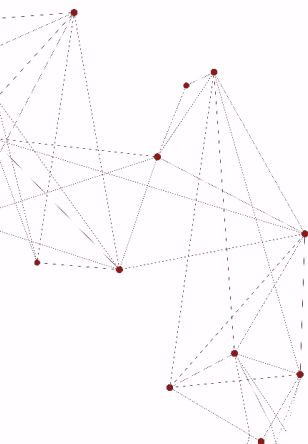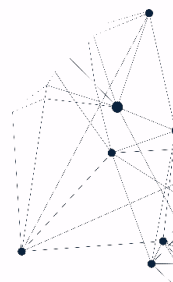- 🌐 Language
- 🕐 Workload in h

Application status: Open

Title of course

- 🏢 Provider of course
- 🌐 Language
- 🕐 Workload in h

Application status: Open

Honey Bee Health (Apiculture)

ⓘ Definition
ⓘ Disclaimer

Title	Honey Bee Health (Apiculture)
Outcomes	Identify current parasites of honeybees in Ireland and more widely, considering potential threats to honeybee health from imported bees and other products. Describe the life cycle of the main honeybee pathogens. Explain the importance of plants to honeybee health. Link the diversity of microbes associated with honeybees with their influence on honeybee health. Discuss human-mediated factors involved in decline of honeybee health.
Level (EQF/QF-EHEA) ⓘ	6
Language(s) of instruction	English
Costs (fee)	500 EUR
Accurate and up-to-date information: learning outcomes in ESCO ontology	No (ESCO skills generated) ⓘ

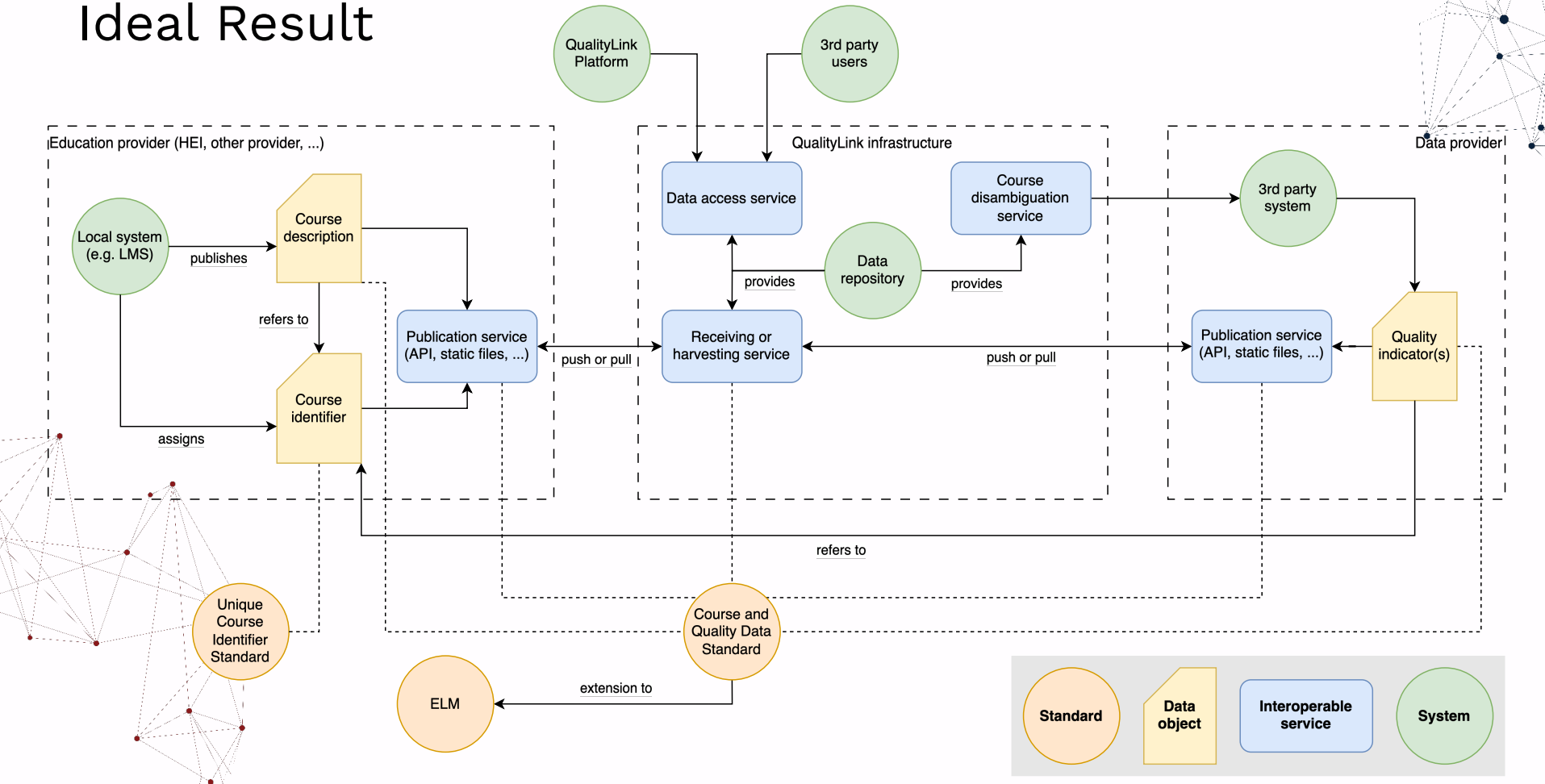> Definition text, explaining what the data type represents

	Course 1	Course 2
Title	Honey Bee Health (Apiculture)	Fundamentals of Accessibility
Outcomes	Apis mellifera Identify current parasites of honeybees in Ireland and more widely, considering potential threats to honeybee health from imported bees and other products Describe the life cycle of the main honeybee pathogens Explain the importance of plants to honeybee health Link the diversity of microbes associated with honeybees with their influence on honeybee health Discuss human-mediated factors involved in decline of honeybee health.	student will know: - The main accessibility concepts and terminology, - different stakeholders and their needs, - principles of legislation, - technologies to support accessibility ranging from traditional accessibility solutions to new ones such as AI and robotics, - principles of accessible translation methods and digital services, - how to apply theory to practical accessibility solutions
Level (EQF/QF-EHEA)		6
Language(s) of instruction	English	English
Costs (fee)	500 EUR	Free
Accurate and up-to-date information: learning outcomes in ESCO ontology	No (ESCO skills generated) ⓘ	No (ESCO skills generated) ⓘ
Type of assessment	Continuous Assessment	unclear, grading scale: pass-fail

Definition text, explaining what the data type represents

Disclaimer text, noting any considerations about provided data

Ideal Result

Education provider (HEI, other provider, ...)

Local system (e.g. LMS) —publishes→ Course description

Local system (e.g. LMS) —assigns→ Course identifier

Course description —refers to→ Course identifier

Course description / Course identifier → Publication service (API, static files, ...)

QualityLink infrastructure

QualityLink Platform → Data access service

3rd party users → Data access service

Data repository —provides→ Data access service

Data repository —provides→ Course disambiguation service

Course disambiguation service → 3rd party system

Publication service (API, static files, ...) ←push or pull→ Receiving or harvesting service

Receiving or harvesting service ←push or pull→ Publication service (API, static files, ...)

Data provider

3rd party system → Quality indicator(s)

Quality indicator(s) → Publication service (API, static files, ...)

refers to

Unique Course Identifier Standard

Course and Quality Data Standard

Course and Quality Data Standard —extension to→ ELM

Legend

- Standard
- Data object
- Interoperable service
- System

QualityLink

https://quality-link.eu/

Short description of QualityLink

QualityLink aims to address all stakeholders' needs by furnishing them with all relevant information about courses and micro-credentials from a diversity of sources to improve recognition decisions and allow learners to follow flexible learning pathways. To make sure that the standards are of high quality and have ownership in the community, the consortium will create a Standards Consultation Board – a group of higher education interoperability experts from across different countries. Through creating open standards and collaboration, the project aims to establish the infrastructure for aggregating quality information from a wide range of sources.

Mondragon Unibertsitatea   EUF EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION   Knowledge Innovation Centre   EDEN DIGITAL LEARNING   DHBW Duale Hochschule Baden-Württemberg