



Co-funded by
the European Union

Bridging Standards and Ecosystems for Interoperable Quality Data on Micro-Credentials

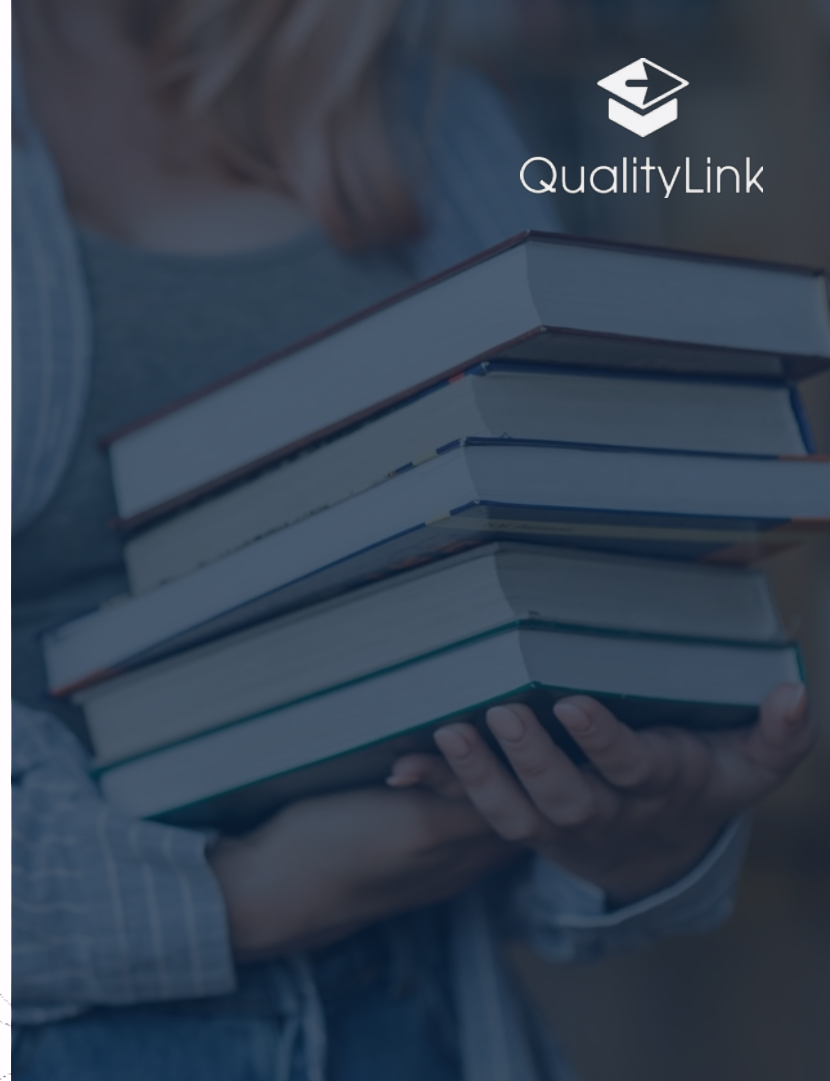
Innovating Higher Education Conference 2025

9 October 2025

Colin Tück (KIC)



QualityLink



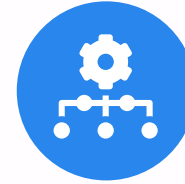
Challenges of today's landscape



Diversity of micro-credentials and other short courses



Basic info and quality indicators rarely published using open standards



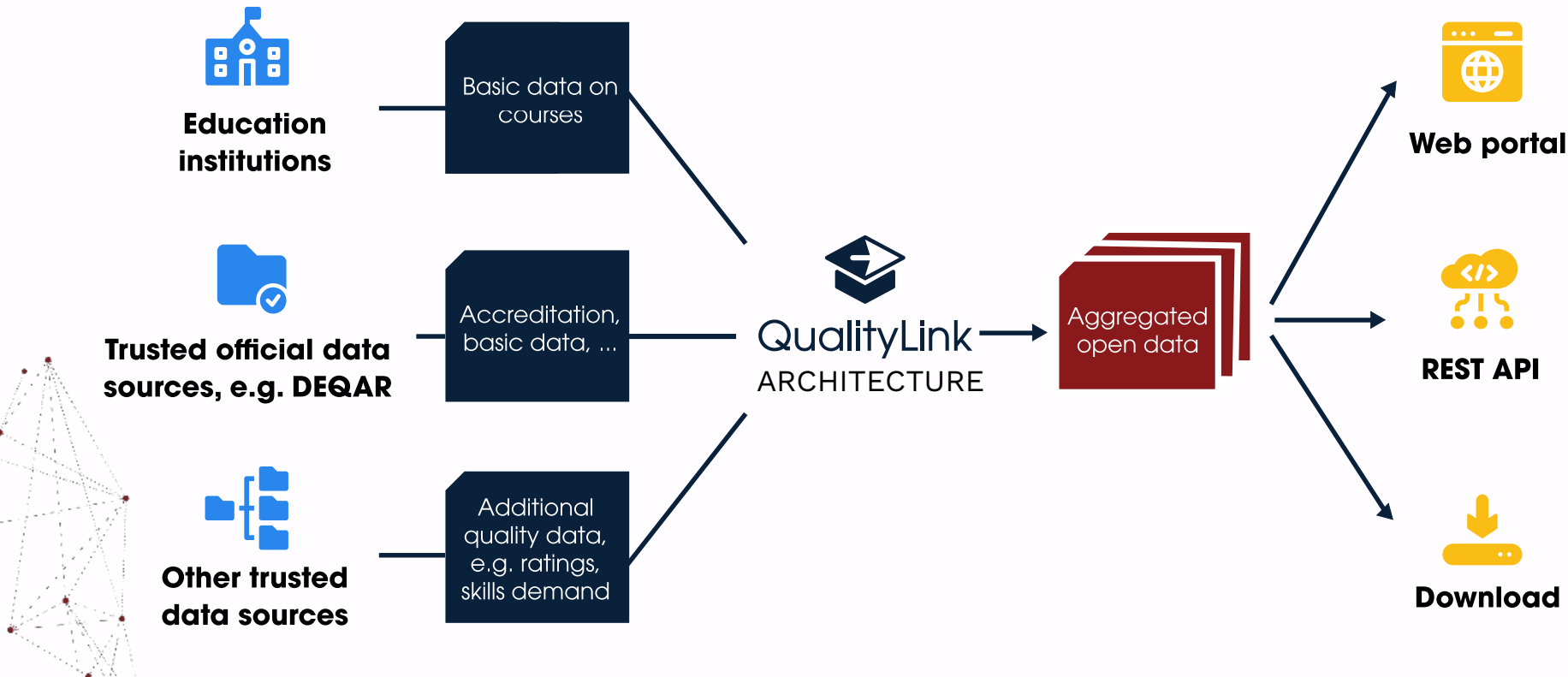
Standardise and reliable data crucial for recognition and understanding

QualityLink is an Erasmus+ project running Dec 2023 – May 2026 | Partners:



Our aim: an open quality data exchange architecture

(in particular, but not only for micro-credentials)



Use cases

of a Europe-wide open dataset on learning opportunities



Europe-wide
visibility



Potential
learners,
guidance



Mapping and
benchmarking



Credential
transparency for
the labour
market



Reliable
information for
recognition

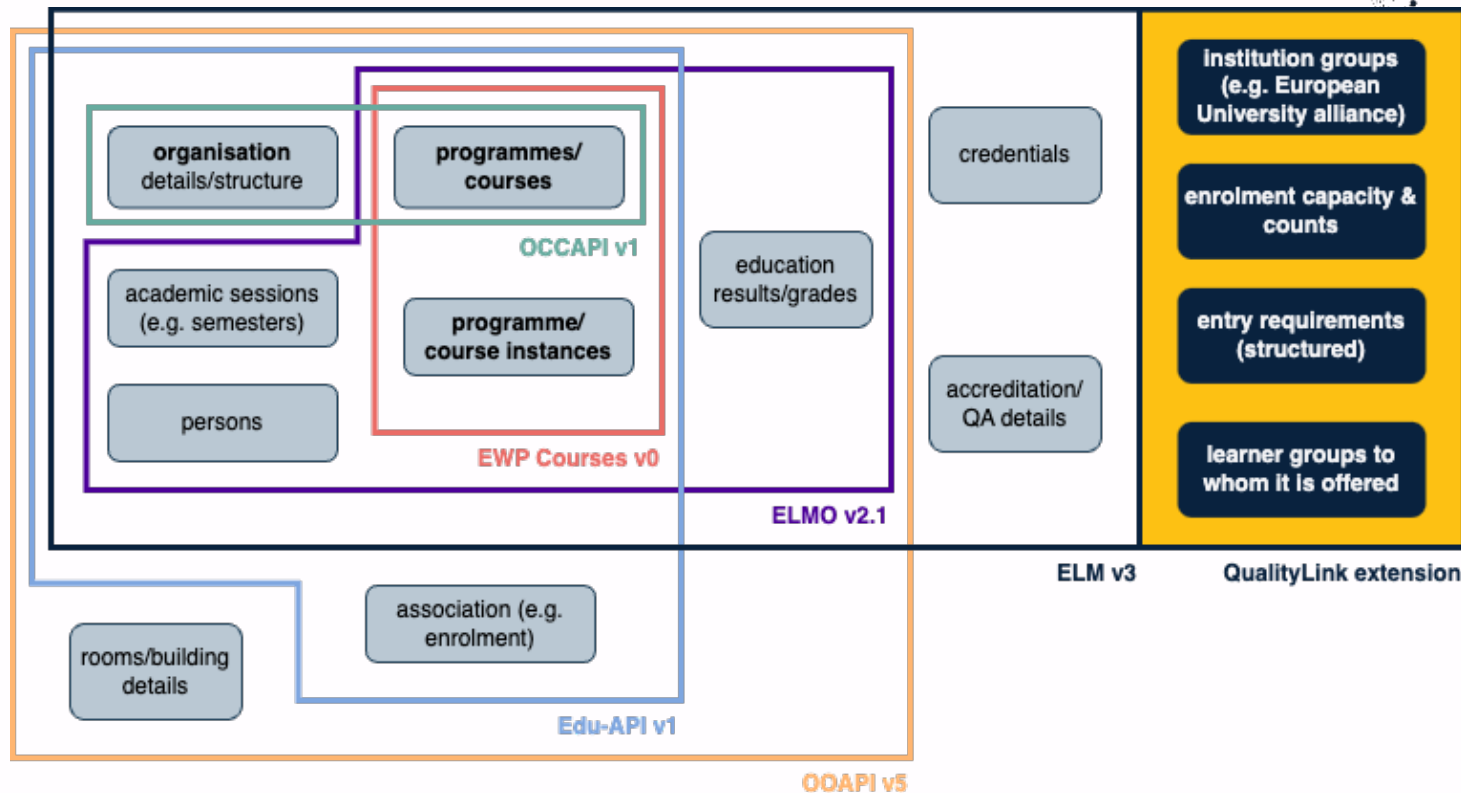


Alliances' joint
catalogues

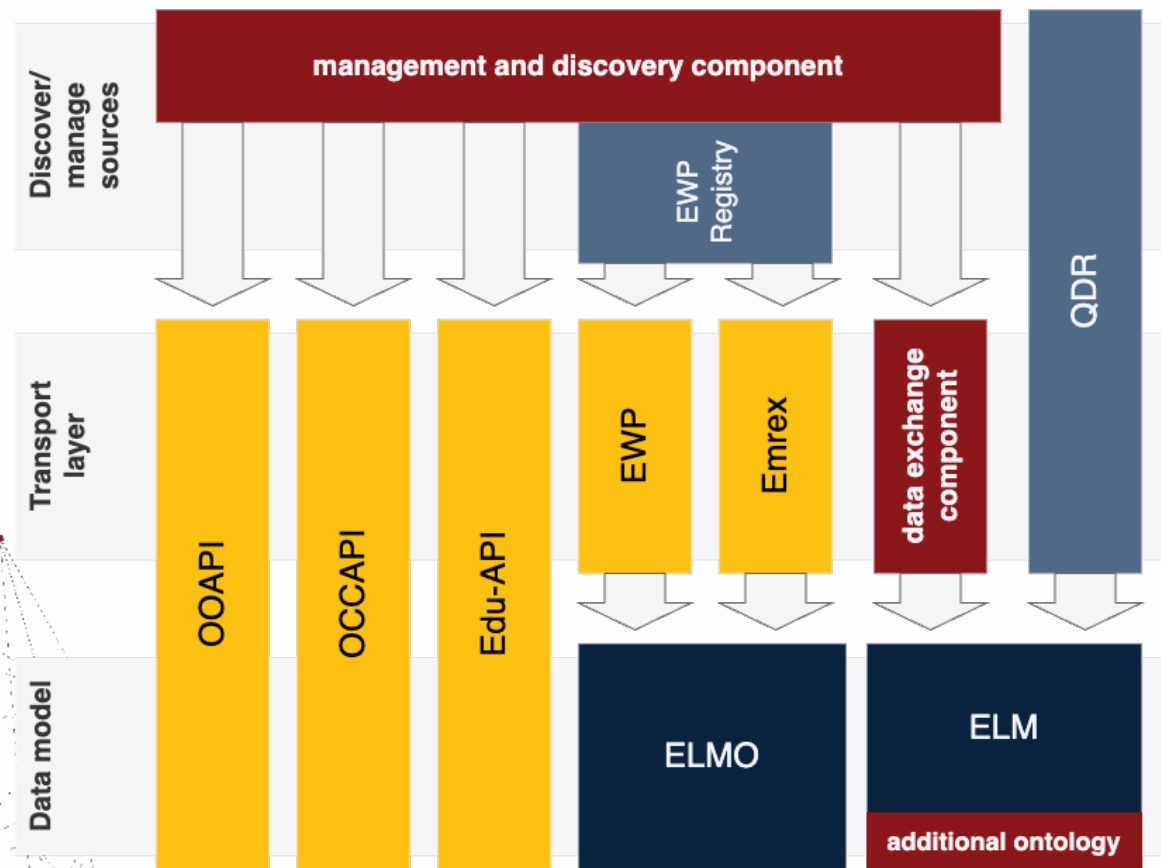
Landscape of data standards used in Europe

Standard	Maintained by	Used by	Tech
ELM	EU	EDC, QDR	RDF ontology & profiles
ELMO	EMREX	EWP, EMREX	XML schema
OOAPI	SURF	Dutch HEIs, European alliances	REST API
OCCAPI	EUF	Some HEIs, EWP (future)	REST API
Edu-API	1EdTech	Various	REST API
DEQAR	EQAR	EQAR & QA agencies	REST API

Coverage of basic information and quality indicators



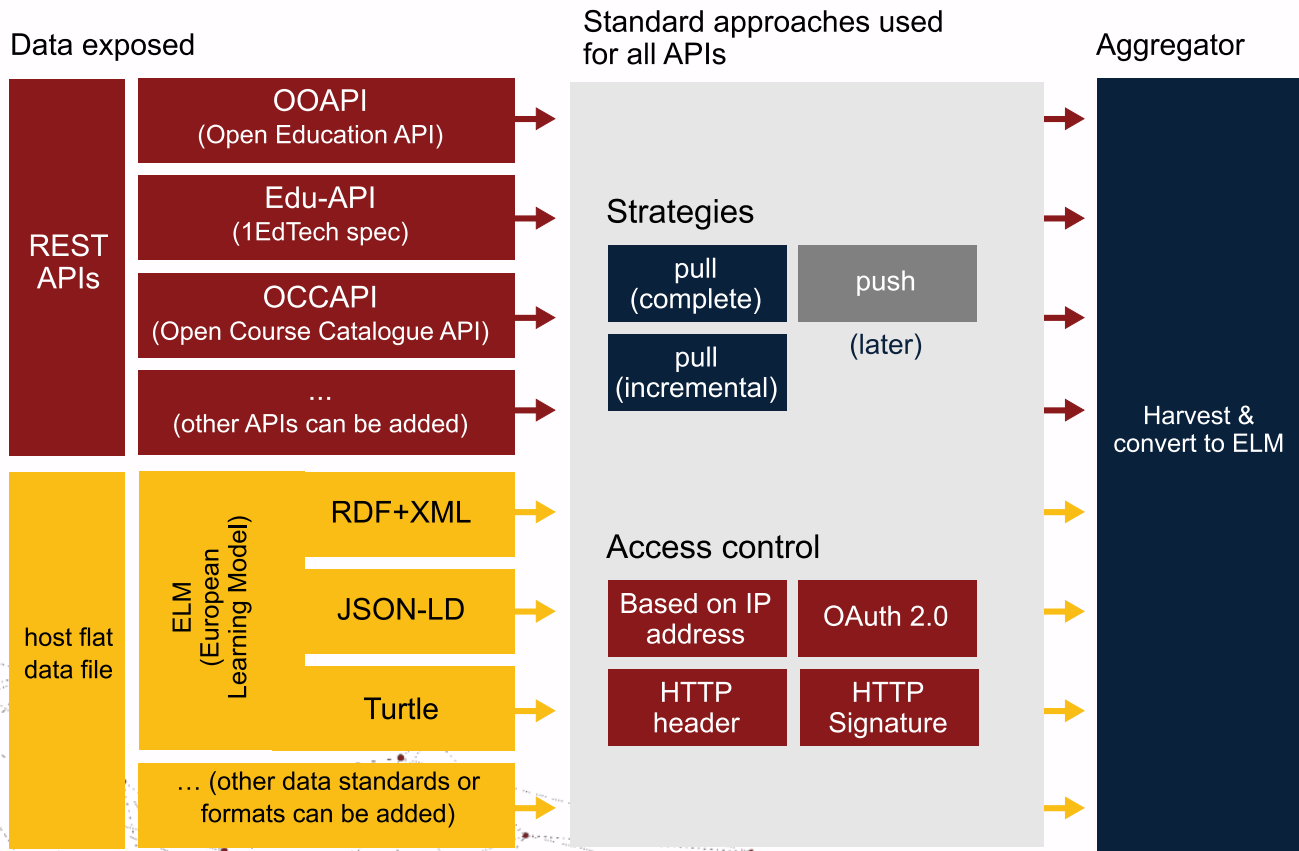
Existing standards and gaps



Principles:

- Build on existing standards
- Low bar to adoption
- Flexibility where helpful
- Open to extensions
- New components open source

Data Exchange Architecture



1) Authoritative sources, e.g.

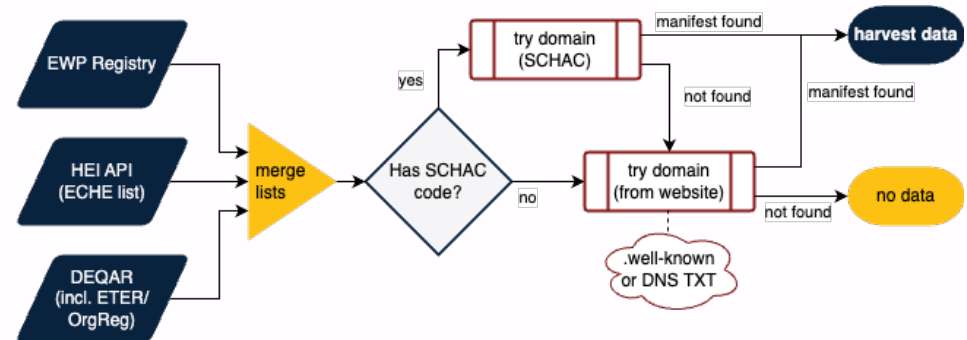
- Database of External Quality Assurance Results (DEQAR)
- Official national registries

2) Education institutions

- Information on their own learning opportunities
- DEQAR & EWP Network as trust anchors

3) Other data sources

- Specific data, e.g. ranking or student ratings
- Case-by-case decisions





Web portal

- Publicly accessible
- Basic search, filtering, ...
- Preset views for alliances, etc.



REST API

- Integration into other applications
- Custom course catalogue frontend
- Free, but with rate limits

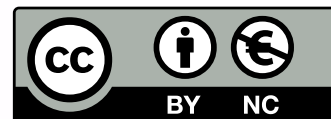


Download

- Research or analysis
- Freely accessible without restriction

Dataset available under Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial:

- requires that users give credit
- allows to distribute, remix, adapt – but for noncommercial purposes only



Implementation options

Expose information

Export ELM data

Implement OOAPI

Implement Edu-API

Implement OCCAPI



Aggregate data

QualityLink aggregator
(project instance)

QualityLink aggregator
(own instance)

Custom aggregator



Public catalogue

QualityLink pilot platform
(hosted, filtered view)

QualityLink pilot platform
(own instance)

Own custom front-end



All combinations are possible

What's next

- **Data aggregator:** beta/pilot version available this month (October 2025)
- **Europe-wide catalogue:** later this autumn/winter 2025

More for policy/decision-makers:



Step-by-Step Guide

Guide for Decision-Makers

QualityLink is a European project that is developing standards and practical tools for publishing and aggregating course data from multiple institutions into unified, searchable catalogues.

Using QualityLink, European Universities alliances can create joint course catalogues that enable students to discover learning opportunities across the alliance. The joint catalogue is foundational for virtual inter-university campuses and enhanced student mobility.

Joint catalogues directly address Use Case 1 "Discover" from the [European Higher Education Interoperability Framework \(HEIF\)](#).

What is QualityLink developing?

- **Common language:** Standardised format and approaches for publishing data, based on the [European Learning Model \(ELM\)](#)
- **Data aggregator:** Software that automatically collects course data from multiple institutional sources
- **Europe-wide portal:** Pilot platform showcasing learning opportunities from all participating institutions ([mock-up of the platform](#))

What are the benefits?

More for IT managers/implementers:

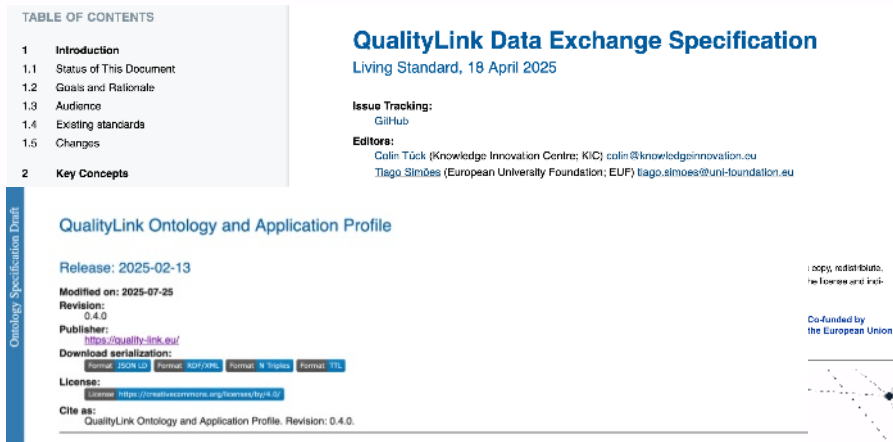


TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1 Introduction
 - 1.1 Status of This Document
 - 1.2 Goals and Rationale
 - 1.3 Audience
 - 1.4 Existing standards
 - 1.5 Changes
- 2 Key Concepts

QualityLink Data Exchange Specification

Living Standard, 18 April 2025

Issue Tracking:
[GitHub](#)

Editors:
[Colin Tück](#) (Knowledge Innovation Centre; KIC) colin@knowledgeinnovation.eu
[Tiago Simões](#) (European University Foundation; EUF) tiago.simoes@uni-foundation.eu

QualityLink Ontology and Application Profile

Release: 2025-02-13

Modified on: 2025-07-25

Revision: 0.4.0

Publisher: <https://quality-link.eu/>

Download serialization:
[Format: JSON-LD](#) [Format: RDF/XML](#) [Format: N-Triples](#) [Format: TTL](#)

License: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

Cite as:
QualityLink Ontology and Application Profile. Revision: 0.4.0.

Co-funded by the European Union

<https://quality-link.eu/step-by-step/>

<https://quality-link.eu/technical-specs/>

The European Commission support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents which reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution ShareAlike 4.0 International License.

You are free to:

Share — copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format

Adapt — remix, transform, and build upon the material

for any purpose, even commercially.

The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the license terms.

Under the following conditions:

Attribution — You must give appropriate credit, provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made. You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use.

ShareAlike — If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original.

No additional restrictions — You may not apply legal terms or technological



Co-funded by
the European Union