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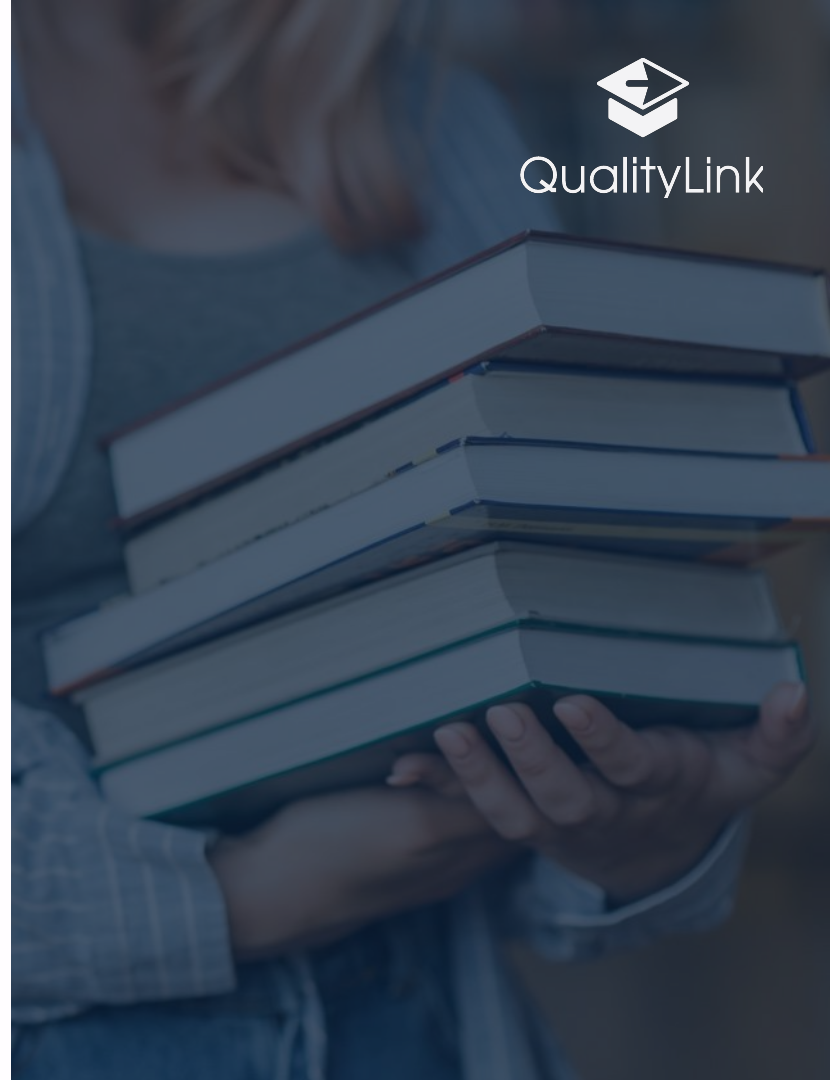


QualityLink

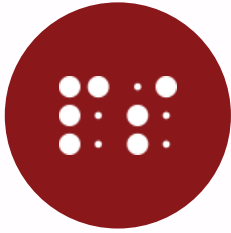
Connecting Quality Data Across European Higher Education

DACEM Webinar
11 June 2026

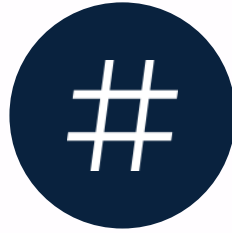
Tiago Simões (EUF)



Current challenges



Reliable data is essential for flexible learning pathways and for recognition of micro-credentials



Basic course data often not published in open & structured form



Other data (ratings, recognition history, certifications, ...) rarely published using open standards

Discover & Quality Indicators

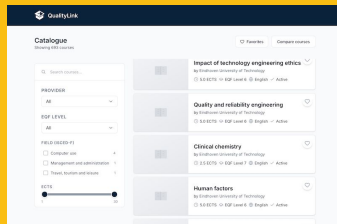
Quality Information about Learning Opportunities from different sources

- Content Relevance & Labour Market Demand
- Teaching Methodology
- Accessibility
- Learner-Centred Approach

Policies & Standards

- Unique Course Identifier
- Policy: data sources and access
- RDF ontology and application profile
- Data source discovery
- Data exchange, using established standards: ELM, OOAPI, Edu-API, OCCAPI

Pilot Aggregator and Catalogue



frontend for learners



dashboard for education providers

Community Co-Creation

QualityLink Standards Consultation Board

European University Alliances

EU4Dual
CHARM-EU
EuroTeQ
UNITA!
ECIU
ENHANCE

European Digital Education Hub

Interoperability Workgroup

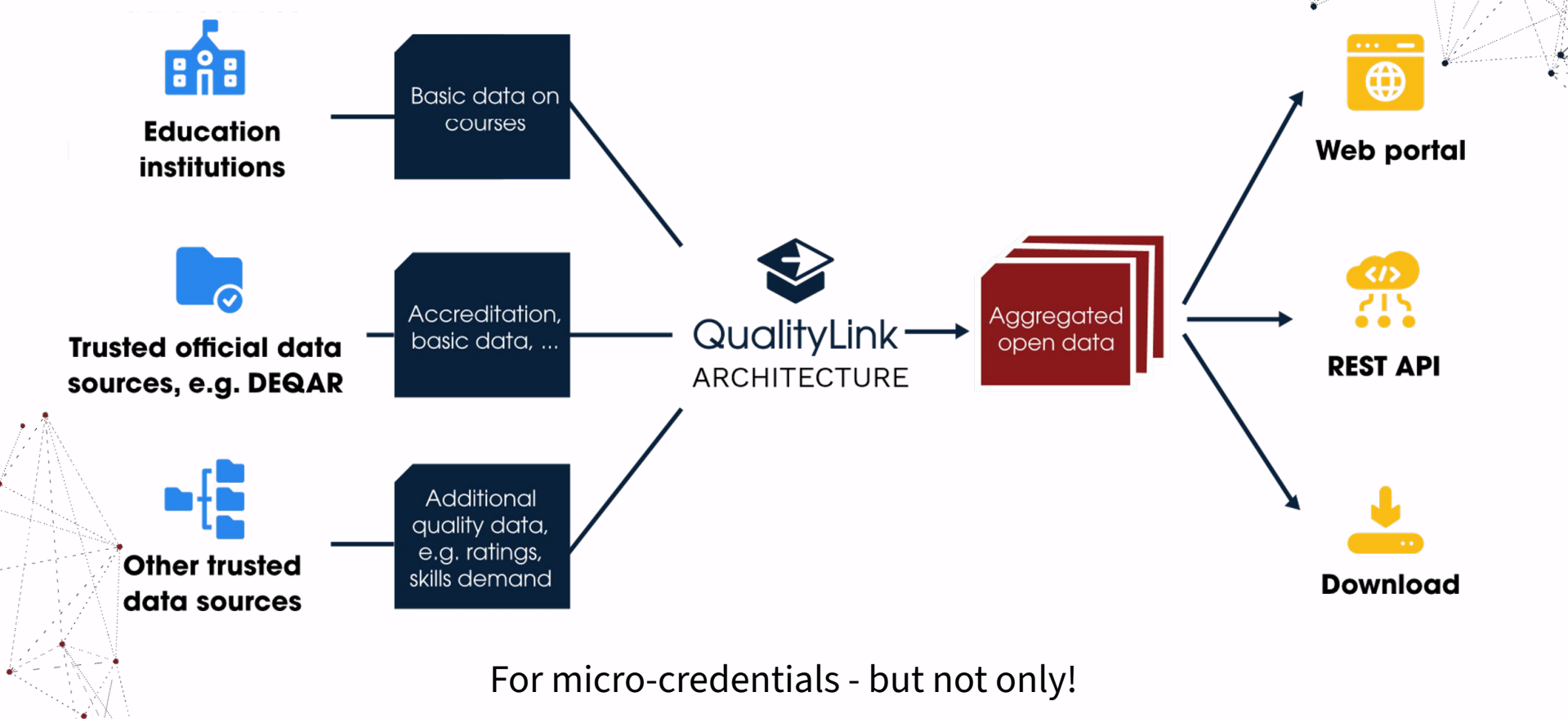
EdTech

1EdTech

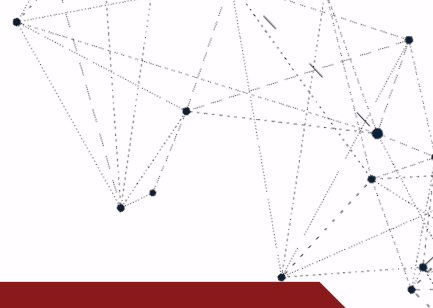
Policy

SURF
EHESO
EQAR
NAWA
EWP/Emrex

The aim: an open quality data exchange architecture



Data source discovery



Trusted providers

DEQAR used as reference list of recognised higher education providers

Same principle possible for other providers - if trusted list available



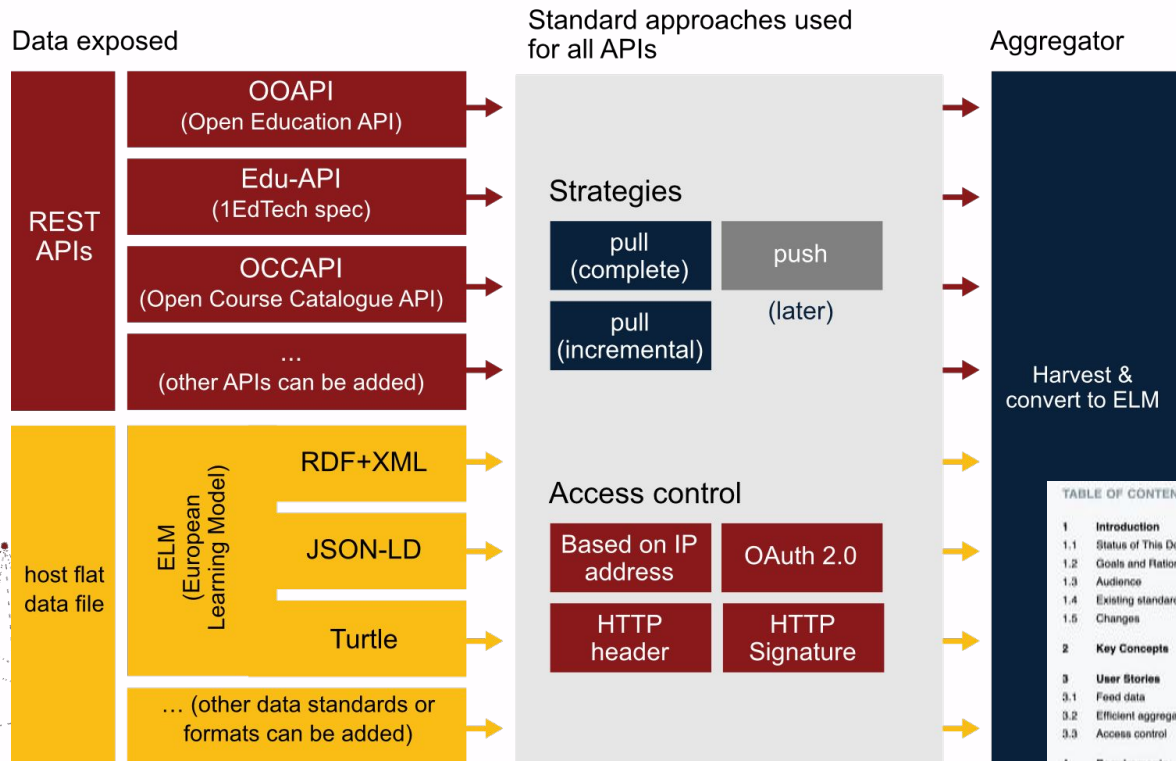
Internet domain

Every provider has an internet domain - in DEQAR as website as well as SCHAC code

Announce source

Institutions place a “manifest file” (a table of contents basically) under their domain - indicates where data can be found in which format

Data exchange architecture



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

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QualityLink Data Exchange Specification

Living Standard, 18 April 2025

Issue Tracking:

GitHub

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Project Website:

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

Project Reference:

Task 3.6 (Creation of a Technical Trusted List Standard)

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Abstract

This specification standardises how HEIs and other data providers can make data available for aggregation.

Information needed on micro-credentials

1. Basic elements

Required

- Title of the micro-credential
- Country(ies)/Region(s) of the issuer;
- Awarding body(ies)
- Learning outcomes
- Notional workload/ECTS
- Level (EQF, QF-EHEA)
- Type of assessment
- Form of participation
- Type of quality assurance

Optional

- Prerequisites
- Supervision and identity verification
- Integration/stackability options

(Council Recommendation on a European Approach to MCs, 2022 - non-individual elements only)

2. Quality indicators

1. Content Relevance, Labour Market Demand and Accuracy	1.1 Accurate and up-to-date
	1.2 Demand for skills
	1.3 Stackability
2. Teaching Methods and Pedagogy	2.1 Quality Assurance
	2.2 Tutoring
	2.3 Virtual learning env.
3. Accessibility and Inclusivity	3.1 Recognition of prior learning
4. Learner-Centred Approach Satisfaction and Success	4.1 Student ratings
5. Institutional Reputation	5.1 Expertise of Lecturers
	5.2 Networks
	5.3 Recognition history of the micro-credential

3. Alliance use cases

Enrolment

- Capacity
- Application period
- Enrolment process

Pathways

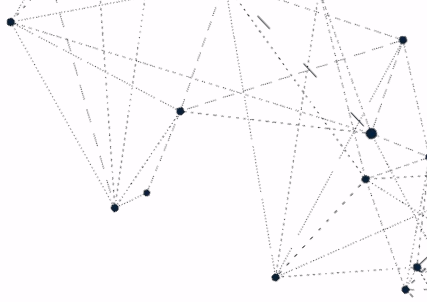
- Requirements and prerequisites
- Conditions for specific learner groups

Recognition

- Grade distribution details

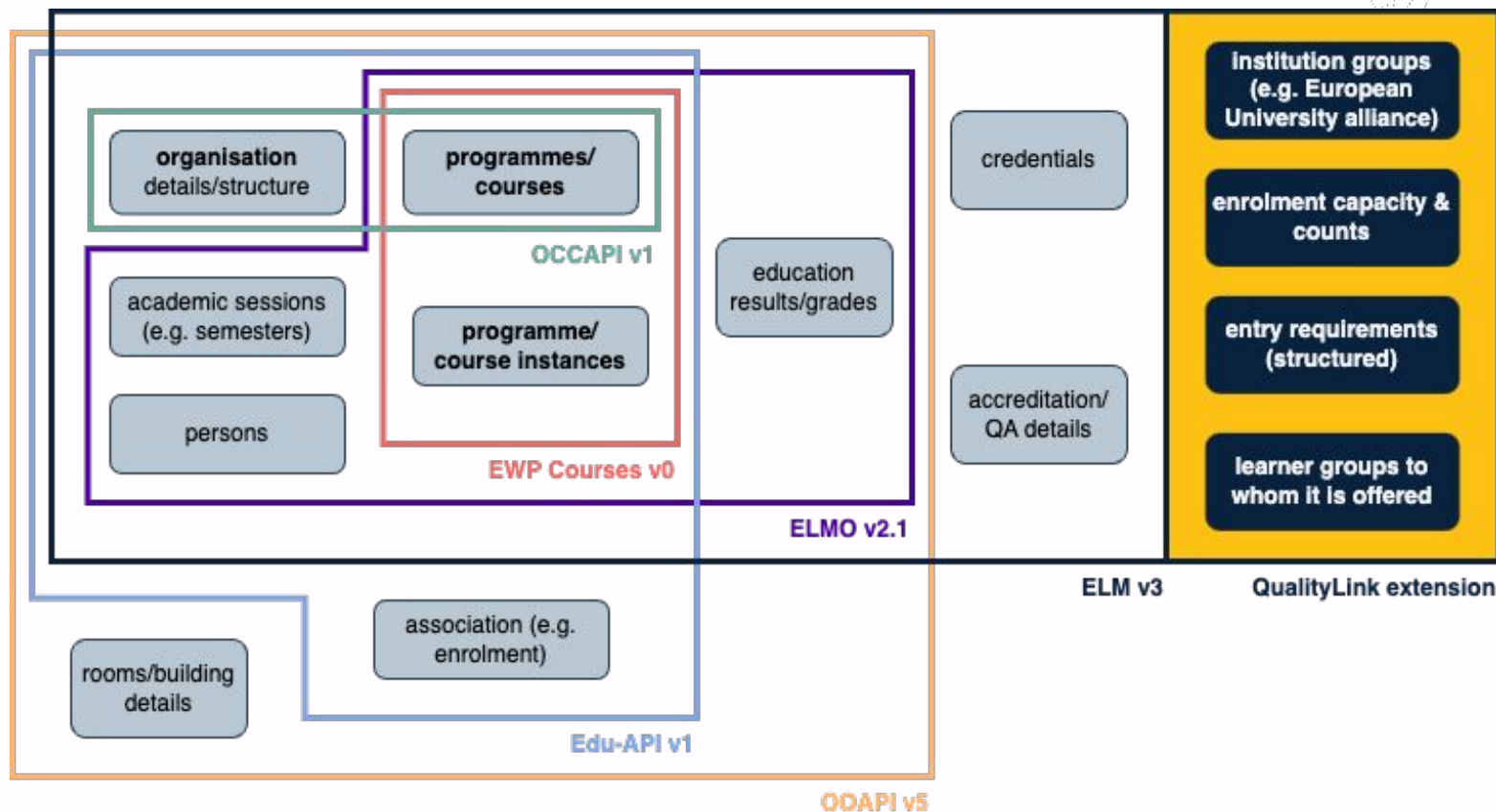
How standards cover the basic elements

Element	ELM	OOAPI	Edu-API	OCCAPI
Title	yes	yes	yes	yes
Awarding body	yes	yes	yes	yes
Learning outcomes	text + ESCO	text	no	text
Workload/ECTS	yes	yes	yes	yes
Level	EQF	EQF	yes	EQF
Type of assessment	yes	yes	no	yes
Form of participation	yes	yes	yes	indirect
Type of QA	yes	no	no	no
Prerequisites	yes	indirect	no	yes
Supervision and verification	yes	no	no	no
Integration/stackability	indirect	no	no	no



Future OOAPI
& Edu-API
extensions
could cover
additional
elements

Landscape of data standards



Overview: specifications developed

- **Data Sources and Access Policy** – terms and conditions for data use
- **Ontology** – extends the **European Learning Model (ELM)**
- **QualityLink Application Profile** – extends the ELM profile for Learning Opportunities and Qualifications (LOQ)
- **Course Identifier Specification** – common format for unique course identifiers
- **Data Source Discovery Specification** – mechanism to discover data sources exposed by institutions
- **Data Exchange Specification** – describes use of supported formats (**ELM**, **OOAPI**, **Edu-API** and **OCCAPI**)



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

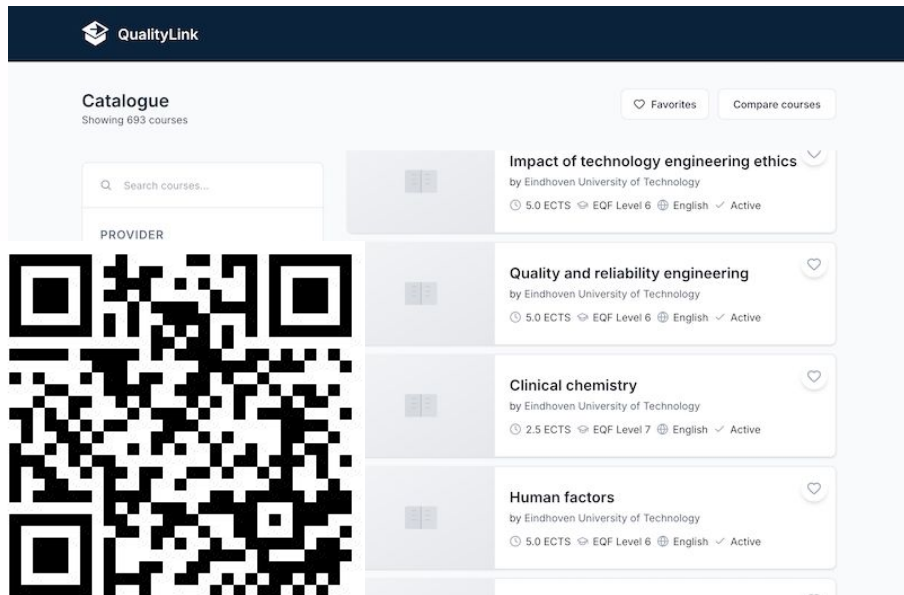
Status of implementation

ELM (static file) sources	supported (v3)
ELM – incremental updates	work in progress
OOAPI sources	supported (v5)
Edu-API sources	supported (v1)
OCCAPI sources	work in progress
Access control: based on IP address	supported
Access control: HTTP Request Header	supported
Access control: OAuth 2.0	on hold
Access control: HTTP Signature	on hold



[https://quality-link.eu/
step-by-step/](https://quality-link.eu/step-by-step/)

Pilot aggregator & catalogue: draft specs implemented



<https://courses.app.quality-link.eu/>



<https://dashboard.app.quality-link.eu/>



Sign In Create an account

Welcome to SkillData

A skills intelligence platform that helps organisations connect learning to workforce needs. Map skills across job profiles and qualifications, identify gaps, and build personalised learning pathways for your employees or learners.

Extract skills from any text

Paste or write a course description, job description, or any text to find matching skills

Skill Finder · 13896 Job profiles · 6793 **Qualifications · 483** Skill frameworks · 4

E.g. 3D printing

Find skills

Everything you need to build with Skill Data. Documentation → Conditions of use → Large-scale API use →



Catalogue
Showing 693 courses

Search courses...

PROVIDER
All

EQF LEVEL
All

FIELD (ISCED-F)
☐ Computer use 4
☐ Management and administration 1
☐ Travel, tourism and leisure 1

ECTS
1 30

Impact of technology engineering ethics
by Eindhoven University of Technology
5.0 ECTS EQF Level 6 English Active

Quality and reliability engineering
by Eindhoven University of Technology
5.0 ECTS EQF Level 6 English Active

Clinical chemistry
by Eindhoven University of Technology
2.5 ECTS EQF Level 7 English Active

Human factors
by Eindhoven University of Technology
5.0 ECTS EQF Level 6 English Active

Use cases



Potential learners,
guidance



Recognition and
labour market



Alliances' joint
catalogues



Mapping and
benchmarking



Interoperability for
other apps



Europe-wide
visibility

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.



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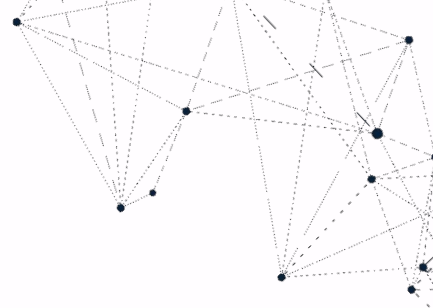
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