

Competencies of Academic Staff for Digital Assessment

Prof. Simona Sava, Assoc. Prof. PhD Gabriela Grosseck, Senior Lecturer PhD Laura Malita

West University of Timisoara, Romania

Abstract

Teaching, learning and assessment in higher education cannot be imagined nowadays, mainly after the experiences gathered in the pandemic period, without digital enhanced methodologies. Digital assessment raises several challenges for the academic staff, ranging from ensuring academic honesty, ethical concerns, to the pedagogical use of technologies.

The paper presents a mixed research design encompassing qualitative and quantitative data analysis, aimed at identifying the competences and training needs of academic staff to ensure qualitative digital assessment of students in academia. The data collected between February 2022 - August 2022 through an international survey and focus groups, reveals pressing requirements for enhancing competence for digital assessment, covering areas like formative digital assessment, peer-assessment; e-assessment of group work and portfolios; automatic feedback (based on rubrics, as well); summative assessment (ensuring honesty in exams, less time-consuming evaluation of essays etc.). Furthermore, the presentation will introduce the Training capsules developed within the Erasmus+ D-Eva project, specifically designed to address the identified needs.

The outcomes of this research provide valuable insights into the necessary competences and training initiatives required for academic staff to proficiently navigate the challenges and opportunities of digital assessment. By addressing these needs, higher education institutions can foster a supportive environment that promotes robust and high-quality digital assessment practices, ultimately enhancing the overall educational experience for students.

Keywords: digital assessment, higher education, teaching staff, training needs, digital technologies