



**Grading Soft Skills (GRASS)** is a 3-year research project financially supported by EU (project reference number: 543029-LLP-1-2013-1-RS-KA3-KA3MP), focusing on representing soft skills of learners of various ages and at different levels of education in a quantitative, measurable way, so that these skills can become the subject of formal validation and recognition. The project is being developed with the support of the Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP) of the EU, the flagship European funding programme in the field of education and training. The key objective of LLP is to enable individuals at all stages of their lives to pursue stimulating learning opportunities across Europe. The GRASS project is categorized as an LLP transversal programme key action 3 (KA3) project. KA3 projects are about the use of ICT tools to enhance learning environments and experiences. GRASS addresses *KA3 priority 3.1.2, Innovative pedagogy and assessment methods for diverse learning pathways*. See the project description page for details. The project has officially started on Jan 01, 2014.

The GRASS project develops innovative pedagogical approaches and ICT tools and services to support:

- continuous development, measurement, assessment, grading and recognition of learners' soft skills, *spanning different ages and educational levels*, based on the idea of digital badges (digital credentials)
- monitoring on the long run the *accumulation* of one's soft skills, in their own *ecosystem*
- *embedding* measurement and recognition of soft skills, competencies, and achievements *in educational practices* at all educational levels (not only to support employers)
- *peer assessment of soft skills* that is social, transparent and participatory, and "works more like the Web", rather than in teacher-in-control-only way

## Project objective

The overall objective of this project is to create mechanisms that enable to continuously support, monitor, assess, and acknowledge development of learners' soft skills with the help of state-of-the-art ICT tools.

This wider objective encompasses the following specific objectives:

- to develop novel pedagogical approaches to support continuous development of learners' soft skills
- to incorporate these approaches in daily practices, at multiple levels of education
- to develop a rich, structured set of soft skills metrics to collect from learners' activities as dynamic indicators of the learners' ability to apply, develop and improve their soft skills
- to develop the corresponding new model and ICT framework for measuring, assessing, benchmarking, and evaluating learners' soft skills used in their activities, and generating appropriate feedback
- to develop, as part of the new model and framework, specific mechanisms for acknowledging, grading, awarding and recognizing learners' achievements in developing their soft skills, clearly reflecting their different education levels
- to develop incentive policies for teachers for initiating and maintaining the practice of monitoring development of learners' soft skills at all levels of educational institutions and across these different levels

There are 8 partners in the project consortium:

- University of Belgrade (UB), Serbia
- KTH Royal Institute of Technology (KTH), Sweden
- University of Limerick (UL), Ireland
- University of Zagreb (UniZg), Croatia
- First Grammar School of Kragujevac (FGSK), Serbia
- Väsby New Gymnasium (VNG), Sweden
- Coláiste Chiaráin (CC), Ireland
- Landsurveying school (LS), Croatia

Partners come from 4 different European countries with very different geographic, cultural, and social characteristics, thus providing opportunities for the promotion of cultural diversity & learning for those at different stages of EU integration. The partnership provides a wide span of educational levels, areas, instruction delivery modes, and age groups of target learners. It includes one post-primary college, two secondary-education high schools (gymnasiums), one secondary-education VET school, and four universities. The areas covered in their study programs span various branches of technical education, science, ICT, languages, social sciences, civic education, pedagogy, land surveillance, business, engineering, and more.

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