

# Screening of competences

Results of the Bachelor's Degree  
Programm in Information Technologies  
at Vilnius University



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## Executive summary

### Introduction

Vilnius University was founded in 1579, which makes it one of the oldest and most famous universities in Eastern and Central Europe. For a long time, the University functioned as the only school of higher education in Lithuania and has preserved cultural and scientific traditions over the course of time. The University has also played a significant role in the cultural and political life of Lithuania. Currently, Vilnius University is the highest-ranked Lithuanian university according to QS World University Rankings, falling within positions 401-410 on the university ranking table. Vilnius University plays an important role in the implementation of national strategies in the area of higher education.

The report presents the results of a competence screening at Vilnius University following a three-step procedure for internal quality management defined in the European Toolkit for Internal Quality Management in Competence-Based Higher Education. The study presents the survey carried out within the first cycle study programme Information Technologies (IT). This programme offers a specialization in innovative studies, in which students are taught using the problem-based learning (PBL) model. PBL is a teaching style deployed in an informal environment with a teacher-as-mentor. It is a student-centred learning approach focusing on giving IT students real world problems to solve. The survey's primary audience consists of students and teaching staff involved in PBL. Thus, the study focuses on competencies developed within the specialization in innovative studies. The survey was conducted electronically, with 24 students and six teaching staff members responding. The survey was filled out by students in their 3<sup>rd</sup> year and 4<sup>th</sup> year of studies, or 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> semesters, respectively. The 4<sup>th</sup> year students are at the end of their studies, as the study programme consists of seven semesters.

### Main results

The results of the survey show that 3<sup>rd</sup> year students overestimate the competence levels that will be developed during the PBL projects. They think that the study programme promotes students' competences to higher levels than intended by the teaching staff. However, one year after completing the PBL courses, students have a different attitude towards competence development. The screening results also show that all students seem to develop the cognitive aspect to a higher level than the practical aspect. Moreover, teachers are more critical with regard to the achieved competence levels than students.



## Conclusion

The screening results suggest that communication between students and teaching staff must be organised in order to create a shared understanding of competence levels. Also, the study programme committee should revise the study plan for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year to ensure a more adequate level of competence development with respect to the students' professional development during internships.

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Further information on the project is available on the Erasmus+ platform for project results:

- Go to <http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/projects>.
- Enter the project title 'Internal Quality Management: Evaluating and Improving Competence-Based Higher Education' in the search bar to get to the project homepage.