

GENERAL COMPETENCES AND TRANSLATOR TRAINING

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Summary

Today general skills in vocational education and training and general, or transversal competences in higher education are considered to be one of the most important factors enabling an alumnus to become more competitive in the job market. European academic initiatives, such as Dublin Descriptors, 'Tuning' Project, European Master's in Translation (EMT) and others have brought forward measurable study quality parameters, which, in their turn, have enabled to describe transversal competences in higher education. Among these, the metacognitive (learning to learn) competence has been analysed in detail, showing its development in practice and comparing it with the translation service provision competence, the key competence in translator training programmes (according to EMT). This comparison allowed to draw a conclusion that general/ transversal competences lie at the core of both key competences. The practical aspect of the development of general/ transversal competences at the programme of Translation Studies at Vilnius University has illustrated not only a success of a pilot project, but also a few problematic aspects. However, the obvious advantage of integration of general/ transversal competences into study programmes is that they create a vital link between the university and the real job market.