



Towards Competencies for the MSc curriculum 'Geo-Information Science'

ABSTRACT

In the context of the European co-operation and the Bologna declaration of 1999, Wageningen University has done a university wide project to prepare its curricula for accreditation. The central question for each curriculum was: which competencies do you produce? The WU Centre for Geo-Information answered this question for the 'Master of Geo-Information Science' curriculum (MGI).

For this purpose, the university had a WU-specific 5-step approach designed by its education support centre. This procedure was followed and largely completed in 2003.

The work resulted in a set of 5 Core Competencies for MGI, each including a number of sub-competencies. Also, an early version of a standard competence description was developed.

An important conclusion from the work is, that in order to use the competencies as a guiding principle for further curriculum development, the link between the competencies, their components (attitude, skills, knowledge) and the individual courses needs to be strengthened.

CONCLUSIONS

- For the description of competencies, standard descriptors, syntax rules and value sets are required.
- A recommendation to other universities is, to start a process like this by spending time and effort to set up more detailed guidelines, to be used for their organisation.
- Between co-operating educational institutions, the competencies in use shall have to be harmonized.

REPORT

Rip, F.I., Epema, G.F., 2004 (in prep.). Competencies of the Wageningen University MSc Alumnus of Geo-Information Science. Wageningen University, 30 pp.

