CSI4: A Curriculum for Ensuring More Employable ICT Graduates

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ICT skills shortages worldwide can be met by global software innovators that can work in any sector. HubLinked, a partnership of 11 industry and HE partners in the EU and Korea, is developing an integrated CS14 curriculum for industry-oriented, internationalized, innovation-focused and interdisciplinary Computer Science degrees. CS14 features Global Labs, where teams of students work across timezones to prototype software, an IaH experience which mimics working in a global ICT company.

**CS14 Framework**

HubLinked focuses on identifying ‘high impact curriculum components’ (e.g. a work/international study placement, a software development project, a final year project, a global lab module and optional modules). By identifying existing curriculum components in HE a ‘HubLinked Pathway’ can be specified for students to develop their international, innovation, industry and interdisciplinary skills. It utilizes the existing supports under Erasmus+ and national schemes. Initial results suggest that aiming for modifying existing curricula, recognizing quality assurance process timeframes within the HE partners and gaining industry feedback at design phase will make this international project more feasible and sustainable.

**Global Labs**

Global Labs are online modules where teams of international students work on software development projects, specified by industry partners, with the aim of ‘turning real-world ideas into experience-appropriate prototypes’. Student teams are mentored by both academic and industry staff. Initial results from global labs run between 4 partners suggest students are exposed to intercultural workplace issues and value the opportunity to work on real world projects with international students while at home.