

Assessment of Competences of Study Programme Directors for Efficient Leadership in Higher Education

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Abstract

Recently in the context of transformations and a rapidly changing environment, efficient leadership in higher education has become important research object. In many scientific researches, the directors of the study program are recognized as the leaders and change agents who are responsible for the development and the transformation and innovation in learning and teaching. Despite this, there is still the lack of research that analyses what competencies study programme's directors should have in order to motivate and inspire the entire study programme team for seeking common goals and achieve the quality of studies.

This article aims to the competencies of contribute to study program directors (knowledge, skills and individual attributes) that are needed for efficient leadership in higher education. Research based on longitudinal study (from 2016 to 2022) of study programme's directors' competencies which are needed for successful leadership in higher education.

Methodology. The results are based on the results of the study programme's directors' focus groups, held from 2016 till 2022 (in total 7 focus groups), in which were asked to they identify the knowledge, skills, and individual attributes which are crucial in the study programme's directors' efficient leadership. Lego Serious Play was used to put study program directors in context and trigger them to rethink their leadership experience in depth.

Main findings: identified the crucial competencies that are needed for efficient leadership in higher education and described the transformation of competencies under the pressure of the pandemic context.

Keywords: director of the study programme, competencies, Lego Serious Play, pandemic context.