



093

Footprint: Visualising and Monitoring Student Retention in Study Programmes across Europe

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Most of the universities across Europe have their own way of measuring and monitoring student progression, retention, attrition, drop out, etc. The way of holding statistics and calculating indicators differs as well as the demands of different stakeholders within the universities and society.

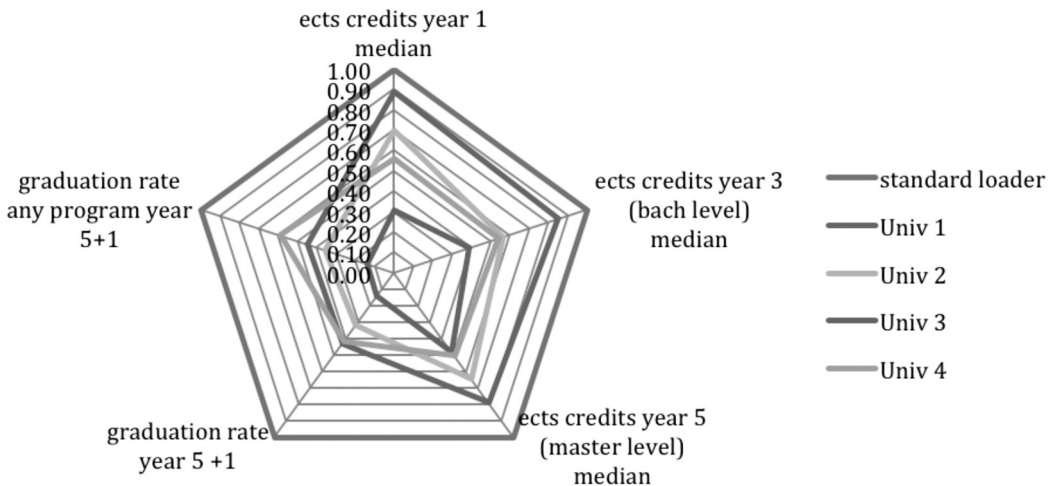
ATTRACT (Enhance the Attractiveness of Studies in Science and Technology) is a European Commission supported project aiming to increase knowledge and inform practice about student recruitment and retention in engineering and technology education. Within this project partners agreed to test and evaluate a method of visualising and monitoring student retention in a so-called footprint in selected fields of programmes. The tool was originally developed in the Swedish project "Ung Ingenjör" <http://www.kth.se/unging>

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The test had three sub aims:

1. The overall level was to test if the visualising method can be used to compare/benchmark engineering education in Europe concerning retention.
2. The next level was to test and evaluate how the method can be used in assessing engineering education.
3. The final level aimed to test if the method can be used to compare different student groups concerning study background coupled to retention.



Retention Footprint: Mechanical Engineering

The footprint itself can only be an indicator as such and the reasons behind study progress, drop out, low graduation rate etc. can only be found through further quantitative and qualitative analysis and discussions.

The results from this exercise show the complexity of finding reasons and proper actions. The results also show that the way of monitoring facts and figures in a visual presentation trigs the viewer to dig deeper and do further analysis. ■