

MINI-SYMPOSIUM AT AIDAA 2017

**INTERNATIONALIZATION: THE GATEWAY TO
IMPLEMENT ACADEMIC RESOURCE FOR THE AVIATION
SECTOR**

Organizers

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ABSTRACT

Fuelled by steady growth worldwide, the development of the aviation sector requires important human resources. Among the many professionals needed, the education of engineers plays a prominent role. In order to meet the requirements of future developments of technology, the implementation of relevant education programmes must drastically be anticipated. The aim of this mini-symposium is to discuss that increasing demand of the aviation sector, the challenges that it brings and how several EU universities have decided to tackle them.

The classical working profile of an aerospace engineer has dramatically changed in the last decades. A strong shift from structures design to other activities has characterized the working environment of aerospace engineering. The modern way for educating engineers therefore involves, among novel teaching methods and curricula, the necessity of developing strong international relations.

With some EU support, a pilot project aiming at proposing a sector-specific quality system that can complement the existing national or European accreditation systems, was set for a series of EU Universities. But the harmonization process of the different curricula across EU is still more oriented toward the teaching contents. An in-depth evaluation of additional important criteria, through the explicit definition of learning outcomes and their way of matching the industrial needs is proposed.

The process of teaching and learning must also support learning mobility, which includes an increasingly high rate of internationalization. Qualified foreign and visiting teaching staff and practitioners now participate more and more in teaching within the study programmes. Moreover, students' studies as foreign or visiting students at foreign higher education institutions is considered as an essential part of their studies.

Finally, research and technology transfer is another part of excellence. For this purpose, students and researchers are working in close collaboration with industry and the teaching staff has to engage in professional and teaching-skills development at the international level.