Towards a Lifelong Learning Culture

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The European Commission defines lifelong learning as ‘all learning activity undertaken throughout life, with the aim of improving knowledge, skills and competence, within a personal, civic, social and / or employment-related perspective.’ One of the key components of the Bologna Process has been the commitment to this principle of lifelong learning ‘from the cradle to the grave’. This fundamental principle has become an integral part of producing workers who are not only able to adapt to personal and professional change, but also can reinvent themselves as new opportunities develop to manage the ever changing world of work whilst playing an important role in society. This idea has its basis in demographics and is considered a necessity to produce workers who ‘... to remain effective, each person has to learn and relearn throughout his or her working life.

Physiotherapy courses must assess their operations within the context of teaching approaches and the overall strategy adopted by the institution to assess how ‘LLL friendly’ they are. The shift towards a LLL approach follows the pink arrow.

This figure presents a current overview of how Enphe members represented by universities from Denmark, Finland, Malta, Portugal, Spain, Italy, UK, Netherlands, Estonia, Latvia and Turkey are positioned. The bullets represent different institutions in these countries. The intention of the figure is to show how these institutions placed themselves in that paradigm. It should serve as a stimulus for thought for other institutions to align their strategies.

European Network of Physiotherapy in Higher Education