



DocEnhance

# Broadening PhD expertise through transferable skills

Speaker

Event location and date



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# Responding to the need for PhD training in transferable skills

- Improve researchers' integration in the non-academic labour market
- Transferable skills apply to a broad variety of work situations
- A significant aspect of doctoral education reform in Europe.

DocEnhance, an EC-funded project (2020 – 2022), aims to develop transferable skills courses and integrate them into PhD programmes



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme u



# Project objectives

- Build the DocEnhance network and online platform
- Develop and integrate transferable skills training into PhD education in Europe,
- Increase interaction with the non-academic sector.





# Main outputs

By December 2022

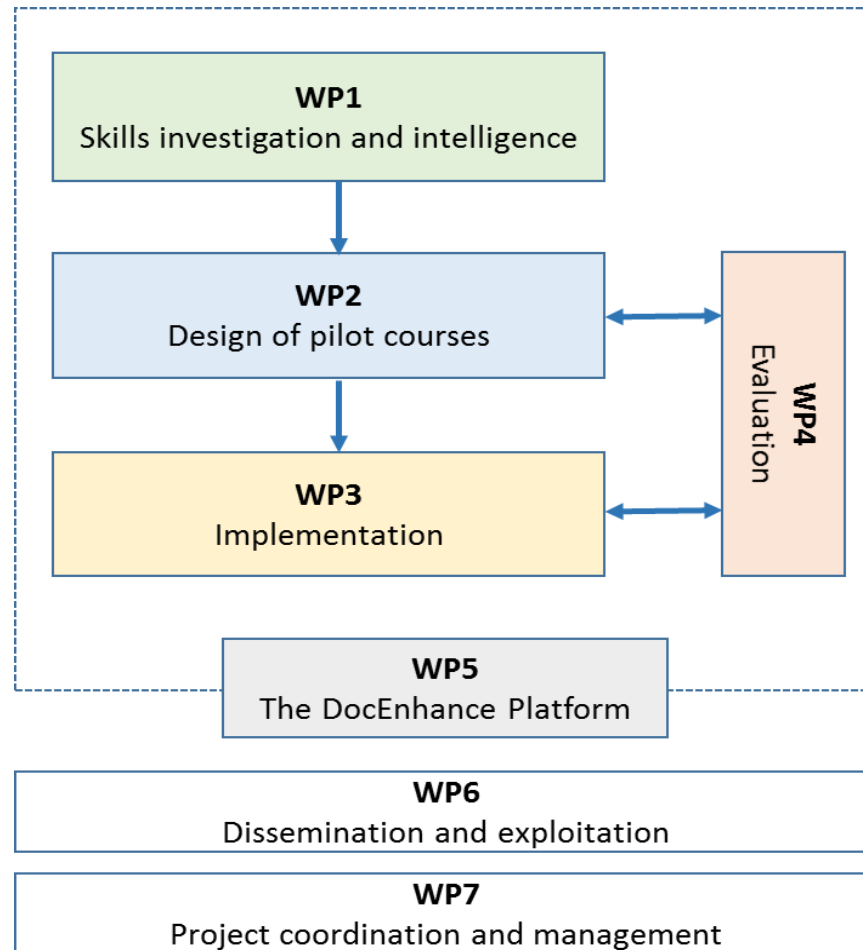
- Career-tracking survey
- DocEnhance online platform:
  - **Network** of academic and non-academic partners
  - **Transferable skills curriculum** for PhD programmes in data stewardship, career management & entrepreneurship, supervision.

Contents will be freely accessible and easily adaptable to the needs of HEIs.





# The Project Workplan

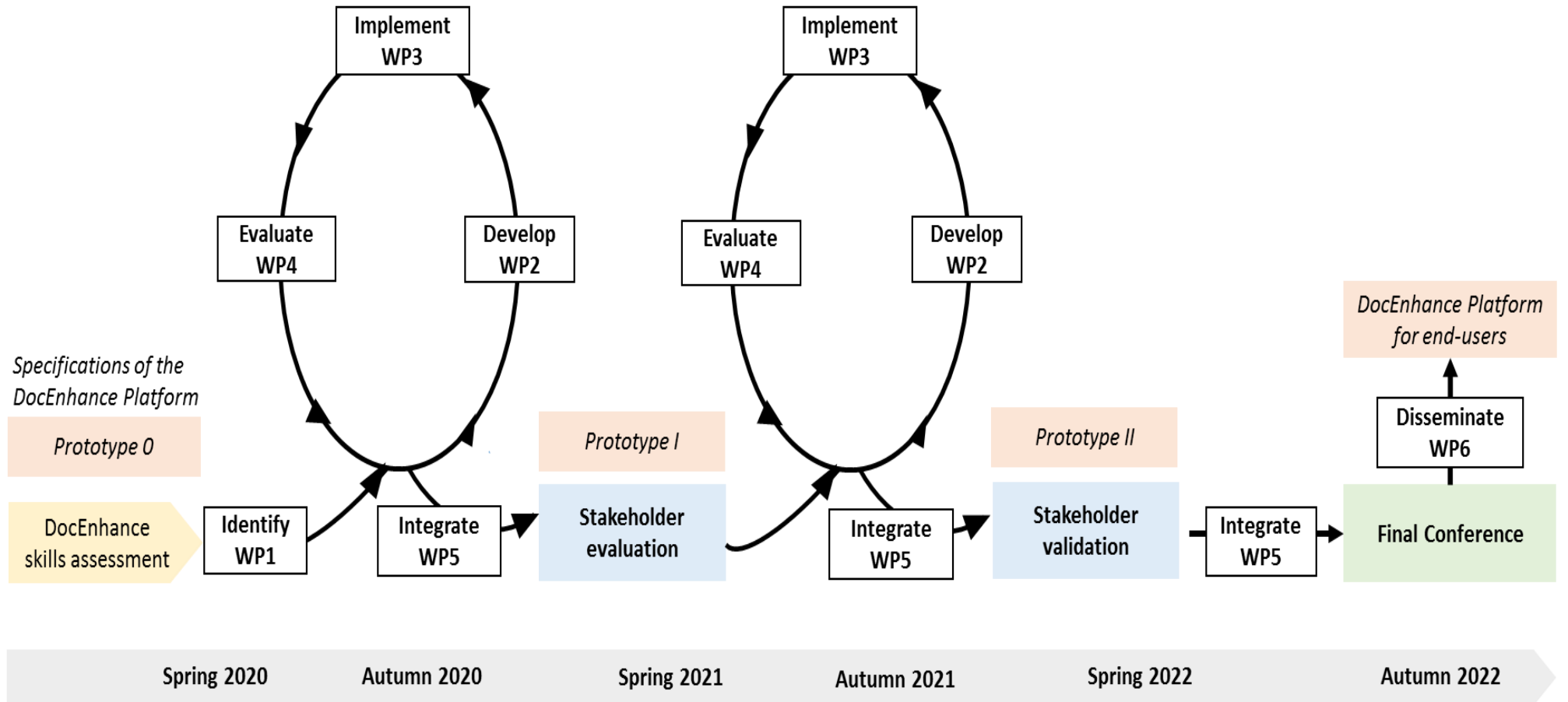




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# Overall Concept and Methodology

Co-creation approach → Skills intelligence → Skills integration



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Science with and for Society programme under grant agreement no. 872483



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# Results so far



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# Skills intelligence

Analyse transferable skills training in doctoral education in EU+

- ✓ **D1.1 Good practice recommendations for integration of transferable skills training in PhD programmes**
- ✓ **Policy Brief**

Identify and prioritise transferable skills within and beyond academia

- ✓ **5 Regional Stakeholder Workshops** with representants from different career sectors

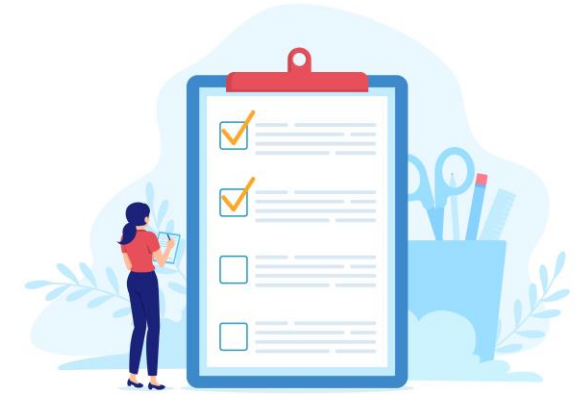






# Skills intelligence

## Tracking PhD graduates' career and transferable skills training



- ✓ **Career-tracking survey implemented among 2,200 PhD graduates in 9 EU universities**

- ✓ **Report on career-tracking of PhD graduates (D1.3)**

Report provides findings based on the aggregated data from the DocEnhance career-tracking survey

- ❑ **Good practice guide for implementing a career-tracking survey** (available by April 2022)



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# Career-tracking survey (CTS)

- Launched in Spring 2021, collected **2,290 responses** from PhD graduates in nine participating universities
- Included 60-70 questions divided into 8 sections (doctoral education, skills, transition to first/next employment, employment and career related experience, intersectoral and geographical mobility and demographic details)
- Overall response rate: 25 %



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# CTS first results

## I Doctoral education

- If making the decision again, 93% would still do a PhD
- 49% doctoral holders work in a job that does not require a PhD
- 84% work in a field (closely) related to their PhD





# CTS first results

## Transition into employment

- Most found a job immediately after finishing their doctorate (70%) or within 3 months (16%)
- Satisfaction with doctoral programme below (scale 1-5):





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# CTS first results

## Skills match

Total sample



68% PhD holders had transferable skills training

— At doctorate completion — At current job



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# Design of three pilot courses

on transferable skills



■ **Data Stewardship**



■ **Career management  
& entrepreneurship**



■ **Supervision**

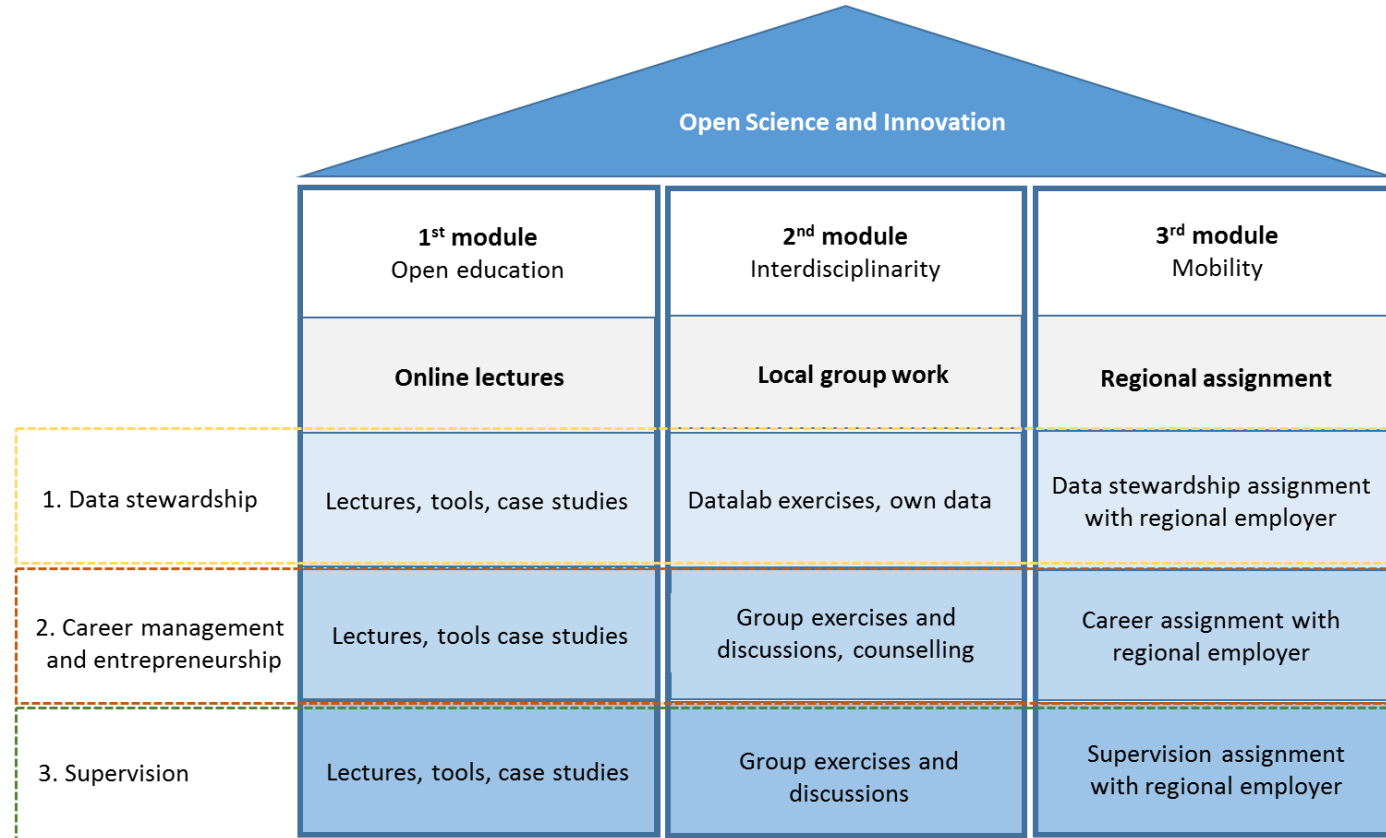
All modules include exam tests and certification



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# A Novel Course Concept





# Design of 3 pilot courses

## Work in progress

- ✓ Initial courses have been developed by partner universities after collecting information on existing online courses relevant to PhD training.
- ✓ In 2021, each course has been piloted in two other universities.
- ✓ Weaknesses have been identified, course concept and contents are improved

## Steps ahead

- Spring 2022: second round of pilot run
- Fall 2022: courses are finalised
- December 2022: courses available on DocEnhance platform







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# The DocEnhance Platform

- **Based on existing platform: PhD Hub**
- Training resources (courses, guidelines, reports, studies) developed by the project will be freely available
- Resources can be easily adapted to local needs and integrated into existing PhD programmes to all
- A dynamic network between academic and non-academic partners

**All outputs available by December 2022!**



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# A Consortium of 19 Partners



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**Find out more!**



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