APPRAISING TRANSVERSAL SKILLS IN GREEN JOBS FOR EMPLOYABILITY OF YOUTH AND WORKERS IN RESTRUCTURING PROCESSES



Transversal skills assessment

Manual for the assessment of green transversal skills (user guidelines and outcome assessment)





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PROPOSED APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY FOR IMPLEMENTATION FOR THE ASSESSMENT TOOL AND USE OF THE RESULTS OF

TRANSVERSAL GREEN/SOFT SKILLS

This document proposes the common methodical approach that can be adapted and adopted into the interested reader's own field of operation and thereby servicing their own specific target groups.

The project purpose is fulfilled when the tools become alive and utilised among the endusers, who typically consist of young- and senior adult individuals, as well as, staff of organisations including private companies.

The on-set of this toolkit was to have contributions coming from the project partners and their respective local stakeholders, in the prepatory phase of output 3, called; "ACROSS tool for transversal skills assessment" whose main objective – as stated in the project application is:

"These tools will be available as first step for self-assessment of beneficiaries (workers, unemployed youth or people laid off in restructuring processes) and guide them towards more advanced services, and to give a preliminary indication to VET professionals (guidance, coaches, assessors, training bodies) on gaps, needs and other relevant information on transversal skills' level and needs of the workers. The self-assessment will be a simple tool, available in the partners' languages."

This tool is developed in both an on-line a hard copy version.

NB: Roles and tasks of the partners

This manual is the result of O3/A1-A3. The coordination group, consisting of BlanKcon (NL), FORCOOP(It), IFOA (It) Winnova (Fin) and Tietgen (DK) maintains the overall coordination of the activities related to the creation of a transnational output, while the proposed approach carries an in-build flexibility for the local level. However, in order to be able to evaluate the tools, Each partner has been responsible for:

- Reading the manual and giving a first feedback especially in relation to;
 - o How useful you find the tools knowing your target groups.
 - o Input of any assessment that you can share and providing any additional material for the assessment activities.
 - o Gaps that you discover in the manual
 - o Comments to the "degree of transversalness" you find the suggested tools.







INDEX

CHAPTER 1: BACKGROUND TO THE WORK OF SKILLS ASSESSMENT

- THE ACROSS TOOLS DEVELOPMENT LEANING ON A STRONG EU REFERENCE

CHAPTER 2: THE ACROSS APPROACH

- THE ACROSS MODEL
- THE TRANSVERSAL SKILL SCORING TOOL: ASSESS YOUR SKILLS

CHAPTER 3: THE APPLIED METHODOLOGY IN ACROSS

- A. APPROACH FOR COMPANIES
- B. APPROACH FOR INDIVIDUALS
- C. APPROACH FOR TRAINERS AND GUIDANCE FACILITATORS

ANNEX 1: SUMMARY OF THE MOST IMPORTANT TRANSVERSAL SKILLS IN GREENING PROCESSES

ANNEX 2: COMPETENCES IN THE ESCO CLASSIFICATION

CHAPTER 1: BACKGROUND TO THE WORK OF SKILLS ASSESSMENT

The main aim of the tool contained in this manual is step three in project terms. Thereby builds on the identification results in the first two steps.

The outcome of step one was a report describing a wide range of practices for inspiration to actions towards sustainable approaches and greening economies.

For step two the outcome was identification of specific transversal skills that the ACROSS project could focus on with the aim of fostering and developing such skills in transition to greening economy in a cross-sectoral perspective.

The methodology behind this identification was a survey of those skills that were determined top most important. At the stage of the survey the targeting was done with two different situations in mind. One situation or crossroads is students and newly graduated as job seekers. The other situation is adults and seniors with work experience and in the crossroads of a need of changing or reshuffling competency needs.

The leading concept of the survey was thus expressed: "Considering the field of expertise in LLL that you have chosen, please rate the importance of supporting the development of general and specific transversal skills for qualifications, sectors or jobs undergoing a "greening" process..."

Rather than a sector *per se,* the questionnaire was conveyed for all of the four contexts of Life Long Learning (LLL) where such transversal skills can be developed or appraised:

- 1. IVET (initial training);
- 2. CVET (for youth, first job-seekers or NEETs);
- 3. CVET (for adults with work experience but in restructuring processes);
- 4. Companies (in-company training).

The results have formed the basis for the development of the ACROSS model and in the present document. Thus Output 3 is a concrete tool to involve the wider users in consideration and self-assessment of the related tools.

THE ACROSS TOOLS DEVELOPMENT LEANING ON A STRONG EU REFERENCE

For the ACROSS project a need for a focused reference framework was early discovered. Thus, for the competency areas it was a qualitative assurance to use the ESCO taxonomy as the parallel standard to the development of tools in our ACROSS toolbox.



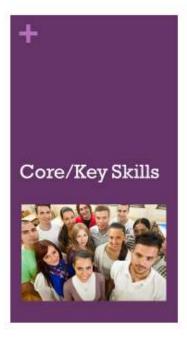


For the purpose of coaches, trainers and counselors etc. to have some background of how ACROSS tools came about to the present stage the ESCO (European Skills, Competencies, Qualifications and Occupations) framework is presented in the following:

"EIGHT KEY COMPETENCIES - (EU POSITION)

This framework defines 8 key competences and describes the essential knowledge, skills and attitudes related to each of these.

- The term 'Core Skills' covers a variety of broad skills and abilities that allow us to manage and adapt to a changing society.
- They are critical to the workplace, and to life and learning in general.
- They help us to put knowledge into action in a flexible way, and to adapt our existing knowledge and skills to the demands of new situations
 - 1. communication in the mother tongue
 - 2. communication in foreign languages,
 - 3. mathematical competence and basic competencies in science and technology
 - 4. digital competence
 - 5. learning to learn
 - 6. social and civic competences
 - 7. sense of initiative and entrepreneurship
 - 8. cultural awareness and expression



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In line with the ESCO initiative, also the ACROSS project and this manual is charged with transparency between competency needs on the labour market and competency offers in the educational system and leading to needs of curriculum development in some cases.

ESCO in practice (source: http://www.euvetsupport.eu/index.php?id=242)



ESCO in practice (image based on ESCO publication "ESCO: Europäische Klassifizierung für Fähigkeiten/Kompetenzen,

In October 2017 ESCO will launch its website containing an extensive matrix of competencies needed in the near-by future labour market. Thus ESCO and ACROSS are born supplementary to one another. Though It is worth to repeat that the mandate of the ACROSS project is to work within the frame of personal transversal skills.



CHAPTER 2: THE ACROSS APPROACH

All jobs and production processes will have a shade of green. The ACROSS model strives to mainstream transversal green skills in all profiles and in all learning contexts. Therefore, the respondents of the ACROSS administered survey were teachers, counselors, trainers, experts in IVET and CVET, coaches, as well as managers and HR experts in the private sectors. The result obtained were:

The ACROSS Top 10 green transversal skills

- 1. Learn from mistakes
- 2. Treat people fairly
- 3. Build on experience
- 4. Attend to quality
- 5. Work efficiently
- 6. Language and communication (Mother tongue)
- 7. Adapt to changes
- 8. Make an effort
- 9. Be curious
- 10. Show good manners

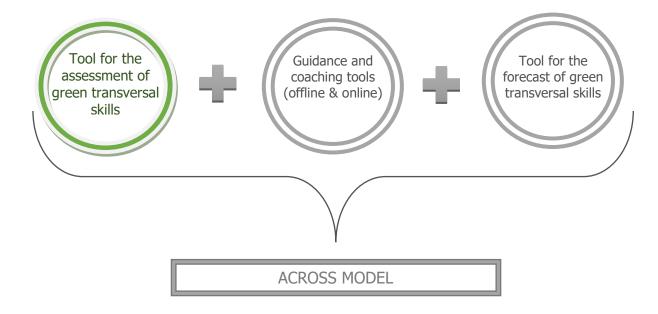
As can be seen a good match is evident between the overall ESCO survey and the ACROSS survey focused on transversal skills. This was a good support for the development of the ACROSS tools and methods. The ACROSS partnership took this further in an appreciation of our mandate and this evolved in the identification of five skills areas deemed as the most relevant and important in the shift to a greener economy. All training activities will refer to one or more of them, which are the following:

- 1. Communicate effectively
- 2. Follow ethical and sustainable work practices
- 3. Handle challenges
- 4. Demonstrate commitment
- 5. Use your mind



THE ACROSS MODEL

The Across model consist of three elements that can be offered as relevant by way as a single tool or as a joggle between with one or two of the elements.



THE TRANSVERSAL SKILL SCORING TOOL: ASSESS YOUR SKILLS

This assessment tool is developed in an on-line version in order to reach out in an easy accessible way, it is however, not meant to be a "stand alone" tool. The ideal situation is rather, that the assessment is carried out as a preparation for a guidance session with a coach, a career counsellor for instance. In such a situation it is a help to reflect upon your skills and be better in a position to compare what transversal skills you seem to be having strongly or weakly as what skills come up as important during the guiding session. Thus, a step on the way to give direction for you should highlight in your Curriculum Vitae, or what you may need to take up as your learning point if you want to gain a stronger position for the branche(s) you want to be attractive for in the future.

You will reflect upon five different skills areas:

- Communicate effectively
- Follow ethical and sustainable work practices
- Handle challenges
- Demonstrate commitment
- Use your mind





For each skill area you will find support by some 4-5 factors that characterises it and their description.

In step one you will think and write your own considerations for each factor by describing an example of a situation you remember in which you did/did not perform that kind of skill or behaviour.

In step two you assess or score yourself from 0 to 5 (highest) by asking yourself "to which degree do I possess this skill?"

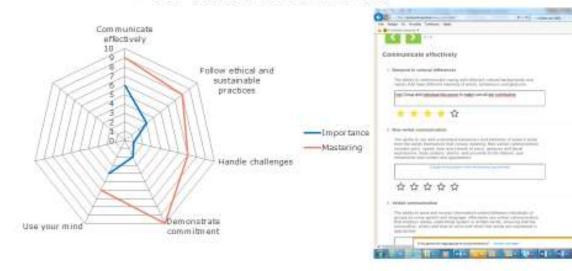
CATEGORY	GENERAL SKILLS AREA	SUB-SKILLS
Language and Communication	1. COMMUNICATE EFFECTIVELY	1.a.Respond to cultural differences 1.b. Non-verbal communication 1.c. Verbal communication 1.d. Digital communication
Attitudes and Values at work	2. FOLLOW ETHICAL AND SUSTAINABLE WORK PRACTICES	2.a. Identify social impact 2.b. Reflect on work practices 2.c. Treat people fairly 2.d. Work with different viewpoints 2.e. Make ethical choices
Attitudes and Values at work	3. HANDLE CHALLENGES	3.a. Adapt to changes 3.b. Cope with obstacles 3.c. Deal with uncertainty 3.d. Learn from mistakes 3.e. Build on experience
Attitudes and Values at work	4. DEMONSTRATE COMMITMENT	4.a. Attend to quality 4.b. Be persistent 4.c. Make an effort 4.d. Be enthusiastic 4.e. Work efficiently and independently

Thinking skills		5.a. Critical thinking
	5. USE YOUR MIND	5.b. Creative thinking
		5.c. Planning and monitoring
		5.d. Entrepreneurship

At the end of the evaluation, you will be able to see a clear visual presentation of your complete scoring. As this example shows:

APPRAISING TRANSVERSAL SKILLS IN GREEN JOBS FOR EMPLOYABILITY OF YOUTH AND WORKERS IN RESTRUCTURING PROCESSES

Self-assessment online tool

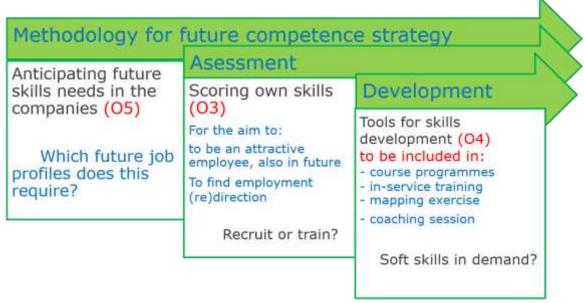








CHAPTER 3: THE APPLIED METHODOLOGY IN ACROSS



A. APPROACH FOR COMPANIES

The most likely scenario of an entity that will find use for all three elements is a company or an organisation. A company that sees a relevance to make a forecasting exercise i.e. to actualise its predictions of the future in order to act tacitly well in terms of its staff and their skills. This is depicted below.

Analysing changing skill needs and peering into the future (both quantitatively and qualitatively) are important elements in avoiding market failures. This type of Labour market information is a public good but the use of such results at a European level is still mainly limited to Government (policy makers & expert groups). It is argued here that such information has a broader role in helping to make markets work better, by informing all labour market participants about the situations they may face.

Looking at a changing scenario from a company perspective. Try to imagine a company decision of strategically making a turn for a greener servicing of their customers. This requires new routines from many positions in the company and therefore a training need arises. Such a need can be met in many different ways; in house or external, in one go or in a longer stretch as well as individually, in small unit groups or for the whole organisation. Sometimes it is the responsibility of the HR staff, but in many cases it also becomes a request from the company to a training organisation to use their expertice to design tailor-made learning processes that are capable of developing strategic competencies for the specific situation, needs and culture of the company.

In this case the training organisation takes an advisory role drawing up proposals for learning interventions – a performance that may differ considerably from selling



courses. It is the field of selling consultancy service, and for such a new role they also may need to improve their capacities – a chain reaction that are not uncommon towards a greener economy.

Especially in an example where the company needs to take a new approach to service provision the new skills needed are in the range of personal and transversal skills. For this situation all three tools in the ACROSS model may be part of the collaboration between the company and the training institution.

B. APPROACH FOR INDIVIDUALS

The main aim of this tool consists in supporting the development of specific competences for the transition to green jobs/entrepreneurial ideas. On the other side, it is also a training tool embedded in ECVET standard to be used in LLL and/or initial training strategies as a guidance tool that trainers can use to help beneficiaries develop a plan with personal/professional objectives, to accompany job placement, professional development or career change.

For a person in a situation of working or career change a skills analysis can clarify and guide towards a fruitful skill upgrading. For some people a career guidance talk can be an unfamiliar situation with a lot of new terminology and thus prepatory exercises may act as a welcome "warm up". Having worked with a tool as the ACROSS self-assessment scoring a typical open question as "How do you see – or wish to see – yourself in hectic and closely collaborating teamwork?" has already been getting some considerations. Or "what transversal skills do you believe fits well in your next dream job?" may be a relevant question put to you in a job guidance session and a prompt to do the scoring com reflexion exercise.

At the end of the assessment exercise your scoring result will be visualised and we recommend to save or print it and thereby have it handy for guidance talks and to follow your training progression over time.





APPRAISING TRANSVERSAL SKILLS IN GREEN JOBS FOR EMPLOYABILITY OF YOUTH AND WORKERS IN RESTRUCTURING PROCESSES



A competency is more than just knowledge and skills. It involves the ability to mobilise the right psychosocial resources in each particular context.

For example, the ability to communicate effectively is a competency that may draw on an individual's knowledge of language, practical IT skills and attitudes towards those with whom he or she is communicating





C. APPROACH FOR TRAINERS AND GUIDANCE FACILITATORS

Adult educators routinely play various roles in their motivational building capacity. Changing situations in society call for new roles among persons in the guiding positions. The ACROSS toolkit provides background and support material to implement guidance and capacity-building programmes and initiatives for the identified target groups.

As a skills development guiding person your first meeting with the client is very important in a double sense. On the one hand your client will assess you, your cultural sensitivity, and the confidence you convey in delivering the required consultancy or competence development plan for a company. On the other hand the initial meeting offers an opportunity to influence the agenda and frame for the educational task the company faces. For this case, if you are equipped with knowledge

of the company and its strategies, strong communicative skills, cultural sensitivity, and a toolbox of learning tools the learning designer will be well armed to meet the company's needs. For this situation all three tools in the ACROSS model may be part of the collaboration between the company and the training institution. In the ACROSS toolbox the is a collection of exercises to fit many situations, including the number of participants from 2 persons to large groups. Also what concerns the assessment tool there is flexibility and we claim from our experience that a company unit doing the



assessment together in dialog and discussion will learn a lot about how they see themselves and how to move towards the wanted scenario.

Also in case of providing individual career and job guidance, the first meeting is a cultural meeting. You will have to balance the task of scanning for the skills "in need and in existence" by asking and reading and the task of formulating ideas, motivation, methods and relevant approaches. For this situation the assessment tool in the ACROSS model may be part of a good dialog for the dialog for what is wanted versus which skills are strong or weak for the person. And then moving into what tools, ACROSS or otherwise, that can help and train for a better understanding or mastering of the skill in question.

ANNEX 1: SUMMARY OF THE MOST IMPORTANT TRANSVERSAL SKILLS IN GREENING PROCESSES

GENERAL AREA	SUB-SKILLS	DESCRIPTIONS
COMMUNICATE EFFECTIVELY	Respond to cultural differences	The ability to communicate coping with different cultures that have different meaning of words, behaviors and gestures
	Non-verbal communication	The ability of understanding behavior and elements of speech aside from the words themselves that transmit meaning. Non-verbal communication includes pitch, speed, tone and volume of voice, gestures and facial expressions, body posture, stance, and proximity to the listener, eye movements and contact, and dress and appearance
	Verbal communication	The sharing of information between individuals by using speech. Individuals working within a business need to effectively use verbal communication that employs readily understood spoken words, as well as ensuring that the enunciation, stress and tone of voice with which the words are expressed is appropriate
	Digital communication	The ability to create persuasive communications in different media, be it websites, video, audio, text, or animated multimedia
FOLLOW ETHICAL AND SUSTAINABLE WORK PRACTICES	Identify social impact	The ability to identify the effect an organization's actions have on the well-being of the community
	Reflect on work practices	The ability to reflect on what you did and decided related to work, and what happened, and decide from that what you would do differently next time
	Treat people fairly	The ability to treat people equally regardless of their race, sex, social status or anything else like that. Treating people fairly means that you treat them in ways that are most appropriate to their needs
	Work with different view-points	The ability to handle a discussion about a difference of opinion finding the common ground for each part involved in the discussion



	Make ethical choices	The ability of ethical decision-making refers to the process of evaluating and choosing among alternatives in a manner consistent with ethical principles. In making ethical decisions, it is necessary to perceive and eliminate unethical options and select the best ethical alternative
HANDLE CHALLENGES	Adapt to changes	The ability to make things suitable to requirements or conditions adjusting or modifying fittingly to the change of environment
	Cope with obstacles	The ability to deal with with an array of obstacles that comes with every goal we set
	Deal with uncertainty	The ability to cope with the pressure related to the situation where the current state of knowledge is such that the order or nature of things is unknown, the consequences, extent, or magnitude of circumstances, conditions, or events is unpredictable, and credible probabilities to possible outcomes cannot be assigned
	Learn from mistakes	The ability to understand what you did wrong and make sure that you do not do it again
	Build on experience	The ability to use a failure or an achievement as a base from which to achieve more success in future experiences
DEMONSTRATE COMMITMENT	Attend to quality	The ability to work maintaining an elevated standard of quality
	Be persistent	The ability of persisting despite opposition, obstacles, discouragement, persevering lasting or enduring tenaciously
	Make an effort	The ability to o do something even though you do not want to or you find it difficult to reach a goal
	Be enthusiastic	Be very interested in something you should do or excited by it
	Work efficiently and independently	The ability of becoming self-aware, self-monitoring and self-correcting; taking the initiative rather than waiting to be told what to do; taking ownership of your mistakes without looking for excuses
USE YOUR MIND	Critical thinking	The ability to perform an objective analysis and evaluation of an issue to form a decision
	Creative thinking	The ability of looking at problems or situations from a fresh perspective that suggests unorthodox solutions (which may look unsettling at first).



Planning and monitoring	The ability to set phases for the development of an activity or a programme and commit to the regular observation and recording of activities taking place
Entrepreneurship	The ability to start the process of designing, launching and running new business offering a product, process or service for sale or hire

ANNEX 2 COMPETENCE IN THE ESCO CLASSIFICATION

ESCO applies the same definition of "competence" as the European Qualification Framework (EQF). According to this "competence means the proven ability to use knowledge, skills and personal, social and/or methodological abilities, in work or study situations and in professional and personal development." They are described in terms of responsibility and autonomy.

While sometimes used as synonyms, the terms skill and competence can be distinguished according to their scope. The term skill refers typically to the use of methods or instruments in a particular setting and in relation to defined tasks. The term competence is broader and refers typically to the ability of a person - facing new situations and unforeseen challenges - to use and apply knowledge and skills in an independent and self-directed way.

Here follows the ESCO classification of Transversal skills and competences.

Transversal skills/	competences		
			Accept constructive
			criticism
			Share information
		147	Give constructive
		Work as part of a team	criticism
		team	Foster social networks
			Share opinions
			Collaborate on tasks
	Working with		Share resources
	others		Influence
	others		Persuade
		Negotiate (Resolve	Argue cases
		conflict)	Seek consensus
Social skills and			Seek compromise
competences			Propose options
competences		Display intercultural competence	Use culturally
			appropriate gesture
			Use culturally
			appropriate language
			Foster quality
		Exercise responsibility (Sense of responsibility)	Facilitate groups
			Support colleagues
			Support change
	Leading others		Decide priorities
			Encourage staff and
			colleagues
		Build relationships	Mentor
			Motivate staff and
			colleagues
Language and	Non-verbal	Understand non-	Understand postures
communication	communication	verbal cues	Understand uses of
Communication	Communication	(understand body-	personal space



		languago)	Read facial expressions
		language)	_
			Read different types of
			eye contact
			Understand gestures
			Read different types of touch
		Respond to cultural	Intercultural
		differences (non-	communication
		verbal	
		communication)	
			Use appropriate facial
			expressions
			Make appropriate use of touch
		Use non-verbal cues	Make appropriate use of
		(use body-language)	personal space
			Use appropriate gestures
			Make appropriate use of
			eye contact
			Use appropriate posture
			Debating techniques
	Vorbal	Chalkan interaction	Interrogating
	Verbal communication	Spoken interaction	Persuading
	Communication		Negotiating
		Spoken production	Presentation techniques
		Mother tongue	Understanding
			Writing
			Speaking
	Languago		Interaction
	Language	Foreign language	Understanding
			Writing
		1 of eight falliguage	Speaking
			Interaction
		Manage the learning	Reflect on learning
	Learning	self (Learning	process
		ability)	Prioritise learning tasks
	Learning		Monitor learning process
		Manage learning	Plan learning
Thinking skills and competences		process	Use different learning
			strategies
			Check facts
			Consider alternative
	Critical thinking		views
		Examine evidence	Critique reasoning
			Consider impact of
			judgement
			Notice bias
		Explore issues	Make judgements
			Draw conclusions
			Question assumptions

Creative and entrepreneurial thinking Creative and entrepreneurial thinking Turn new ideas into action Analyse the problem Problem-solving Problem-solving Planning own work Planning own work Planning own work Explain reasoning Identify live topics Recognize connections Anticipate needs Experiment Show originality Recognise opportunity Visualize completed work Create implementation strategy Adapt implementation strategy Produce original work Explore context of problem Identify stakeholders involved in problem Implement strategy Coordinate actions Multi task Evaluate success Troubleshoot Devise strategy Set goals Prioritise actions Work out time line management) Follow plan (Methodical approach) Set targets (Strategic planning) Communicate on-line Use mobile phone		1		
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Problem-solving Take action to solve the problem Multi task Evaluate success Troubleshoot Devise strategy Set goals Prioritise actions Manage time (Time management) Follow plan (Methodical approach) Set targets (Strategic planning) Monitor progress Identify tasks Communicate on-line Use mobile phone				
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Planning work Manage time (Time management) Follow plan (Methodical approach) Set targets (Strategic planning) Communicate on-line Use mobile phone				
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Prioritise actions Manage time (Time management) Planning work Own (Methodical approach) Set targets (Strategic planning) Communicate on-line Use mobile phone			Plan for action	
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Planning work (Methodical approach) Set targets (Strategic planning) Communicate on-line Use mobile phone			•	Work out time line
Set targets (Strategic planning) Communicate on-line Use mobile phone		<u> </u>	(Methodical	Monitor progress
planning) Communicate on-line Use mobile phone				Identify tasks
Communicate on-line Use mobile phone				J
Use mobile phone			. 67	Communicate on-line
Interact Choose method of	Application of Information and communications		Interact	Choose method of
electronically electronic interaction				
Observe 'netiquette'			 ,	
Use on-line services				
		Information and		
• •			Manage hardware	_
Use image scanners		Communications	G	
Use word processing				
Retrieve files				_
Manage electronic Detect his and			Manage electronic information	
information inaccuracy in electronic				
information				

		Τ
		Evaluate quality of
		electronic information
		Use spreadsheets
		Use electronic databases
		Store files
		Cross-check electronic
		information
	Managagagaga	Use office software
	Manage software	Use operating systems
		Produce electronic
		images
		Produce tables
	Create electronic	Edit electronic content
	content	Type text
		Design spreadsheets
		Produce audio files
		Produce text files
		Review online privacy
		settings
		Up-date online security
		measures
	Maintain online	Install anti-virus software
	privacy and security	Choose online security
	privacy and security	measures
		Identify online threats
		Set up passwords and
		1
		private settings
	Seek electronic	Use internet browsers Retrieve information
	information	
		from the internet
	Process	Organise data
	mathematical	Interpret data
	information for work	Gather data
		Identify mathematical
		problem
	Apply mathematical	Apply mathematical
	concepts to work	method
	tasks	Choose relevant
		mathematical concepts
Numeracy and	1	and procedures
mathematics		Use measuring
	Use mathematical	equipment
	tools and equipment	Use calculators
		Use ICT
		Record data
	Communicate	Explain mathematical
	mathematical work	findings
	processes	Illustrate mathematical
	processes	findings
		Use appropriate

		1	mathematical language
			mathematical language
			Measure
		Carry out work-	Work with shape and
		related calculations	space
			Use numbers
			Support company plan
		Implement	Support company
		organisational	mission
		policies	Monitor policy
		policies	implementation
			Apply quality standards
			Minimise environmental
			risks
		Implement	Preserve environmental
		environmentally-	heritage
		sustainable work	Assess environmental
	Hoolth asfatrand	practices	impact
	Health, safety and		Reduce environmentally
	the working environment		harmful work practices
	environment		Consider different
		Implement equality	cultural backgrounds
		policies	Support gender equality
			Foster cultural diversity
			Store equipment and
			materials safely
		Implement safety policies	Identify risks
			Use safe working
			methods
			Take precautions
			Use correct equipment
			and tools
			Identify social impact
			Reflect on own work
		Follow ethical work practices	practices
			Identify environmental
			impact
			Make ethical choices
	Values		Identify ethical issues
	Values		Treat people fairly
			Work with different
Attitudes and			viewpoints
values at work		Show respect	Show consideration
			Demonstrate tolerance
			Show good manners
			Meet commitments
			Attend to quality
	Attitudes	Demonstrate	Make an effort
	Attitudes	commitment	Attend to detail
			Show enthusiasm
			Be curious





	Persist
	Work independently
	Work efficiently
	Manage frustration
	Cope with pressure
Handle challenges	Deal with uncertainty
(Resilience)	Learn from mistakes
	Adapt to changes
	Build on experience



















