Open Virtual Mobility
O4.A1.5 Guidelines for use of the E-Assessment Tool in different settings

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1.Executive summary

This paper is a public document produced as part of Outcome O4-A1 "e-assessment concept" of the Open Virtual Mobility Erasmus+ strategic partnership (2012-2020) and aims to provide guidelines for the use of the OpenVM e-assessment tool in different settings.

This publication represents the following milestone:

Milestone 1: O4-A1.5: Guidelines for use of the E-Assessment Tool in different settings.

What are the objectives covered in this paper?

- Provide guidelines for the use of the OpenVM e-assessment tool in different settings.

Who is this paper for?

- Students intending to follow Open Virtual Mobility courses, modules or MOOCs
- Educators
- International Relations and/or Student Mobility departments in Higher Education Institutions

What topics are addressed in this paper?

- Contexts and use-cases for the VM competences e-assessment tool

Contributors

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1. Aims and Scope

The OpenVM e-assessment tool on Open Virtual Mobility skills can be used by a variety of stakeholders in different contexts. It can help learners assess their readiness for online study, whether offered by an institution from another country or on their own initiative, for example by following a MOOC. It can help educators think more deeply about how they prepare learners for such study, and also about how they take into account the needs of 'Virtual Exchange' students in their own online courses. And it can help International Relations and/or Student Mobility departments accompany students in preparing for online study abroad.

2. Guidelines

Guidelines for students

Are you a student or learner intending to enroll on an online course offered by an institution from another country or on your own initiative, for example by following a MOOC? We call this 'Open Virtual Mobility', where you are immersed in a learning experience in a different cultural context wherever you are actually studying from. This can be very useful if you are working, or if you are unable to travel for reasons such as disability, family commitments or finances.

However, learning in an intercultural online environment is very different from traditional face to face classes and requires a specific set of skills and competences if you are to get the most out of such a rich experience.

Before enrolling, or when you start a course, we recommend you assess your own level of readiness for such study. You can do this by completing the Open VM self-Assessment.

To do so:

- Sign up on the Open VM learning hub: https://hub.openvirtualmobility.eu/
- Select Open Virtual Mobility self-assessment tool in the left-hand menu.
- Answer the different questions (see section 4 of these guidelines for more details)
- Reflect on your results and see which, if any, of the OpenVM skills you want to develop further
- Sign-up for one or several of the OpenVM miniMOOCs! If you complete the activities, you will obtain an Open Badge.
- Enjoy your Open Virtual Mobility experience!

Guidelines for educators

Are you a teacher or a tutor on an online course or MOOC which has a diverse, international population of learners? Are you interested in providing the best possible intercultural experience for these learners?

If so, then you may wish to complete the OpenVM self-assessment yourself.

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To do so:

- Sign up on the Open VM learning hub: https://hub.openvirtualmobility.eu/
- Select Open Virtual Mobility self-assessment tool in the left-hand menu.
- Answer the different questions (see section 4 of these guidelines for more details).
- Reflect on your results and see which, if any, of the OpenVM skills you want to develop further as an educator.
- Sign-up for one or several of the OpenVM miniMOOCs! If you complete the activities, you will obtain an Open Badge.

If you are an educator preparing students for Open Virtual Mobility, then the following section will also be relevant for you.

Guidelines for International Relations departments

Do you work in an International Relations or Student Mobility department in higher education? Are you looking to widen the opportunities for students to experience international mobility, in particular those who may be excluded form physical mobility for a variety of reasons?
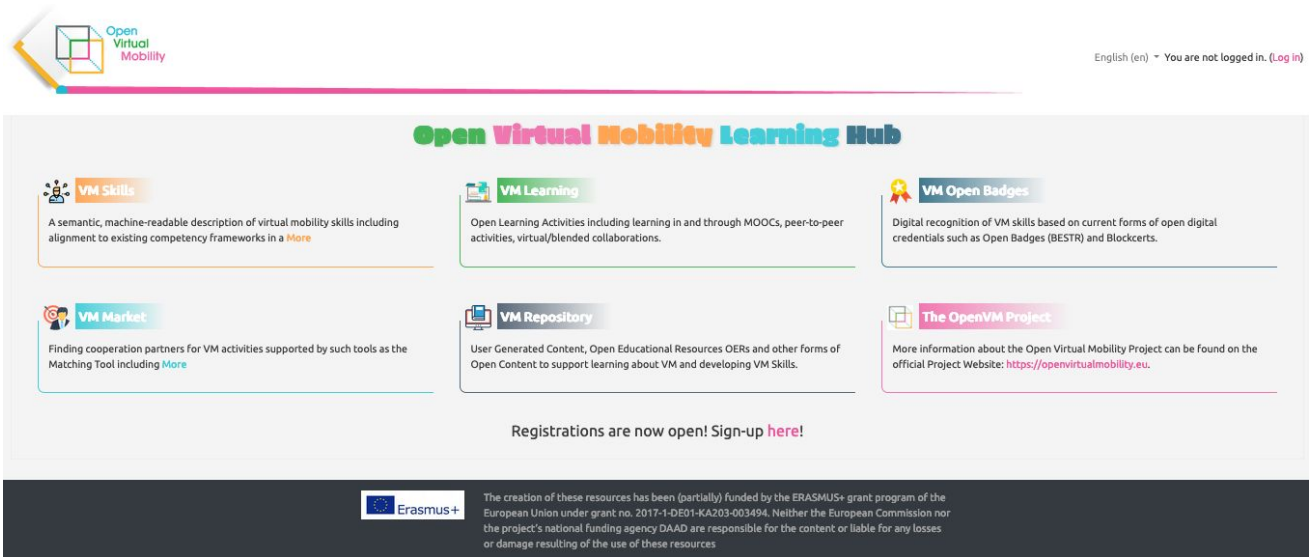
If so, you may wish to learn more about what Open Virtual Mobility can offer, by exploring the OpenVM website: https://www.openvirtualmobility.eu/

These resources will help you to advise students on the opportunities available and to support them in assessing their level of readiness for such learning, and accompany them in identifying the Open Virtual Mobility skills they master or might wish to improve, by completing the OpenVM self-assessment.
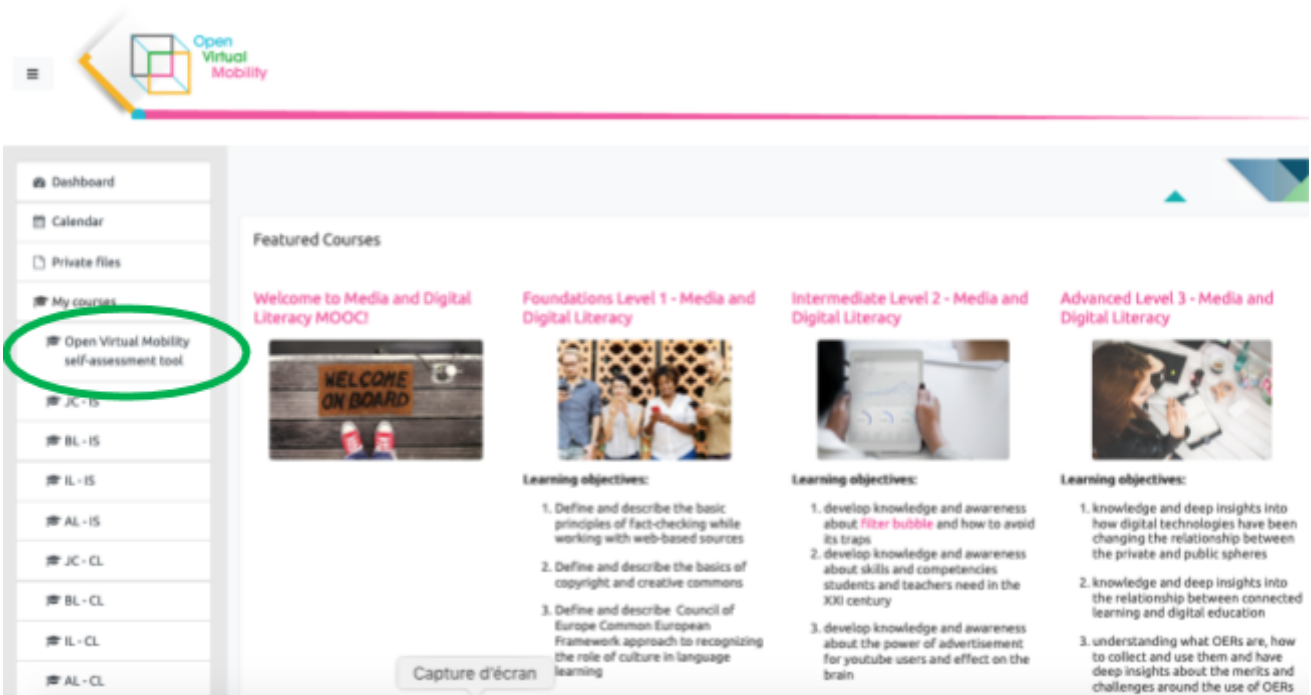
- Ask the student to sign up on the Open VM learning hub: https://hub.openvirtualmobility.eu/
- Once the student has completed the questionnaire (see section 4 of these guidelines for more details) you can reflect together on the results and see which, if any, of the OpenVM skills they want to develop further. To get a better picture, you may even choose to complete the self-assessment yourself.
- The student can then sign up for one or several of the OpenVM miniMOOCs and obtain an Open Badge for completing the activities.

3. Step by step guide to the e-assessment tool

Step 1: sign up on the Open VM learning hub: https://hub.openvirtualmobility.eu/

Step 2: Select Open Virtual Mobility self-assessment tool in the left-hand menu.

Step 3: On entering the tool, select the VM skill you want to evaluate:

Self-assessment tool

✅ 1 - Intercultural skills and attitudes

✅ 2 - Interactive and collaborative learning in an authentic international environment

✅ 3 - Autonomy-driven learning

✅ 4 - Networked learning

✅ 5 - Media and digital literacy

✅ 6 - Active self-regulated learner skills

✅ 7 - Open mindedness

✅ 8 - Gaining knowledge of virtual mobility and open education

Step 4: Answer the statements (1 = strongly disagree and 4 = strongly agree) for each of the subskills within the overall skill you have chosen. For example:
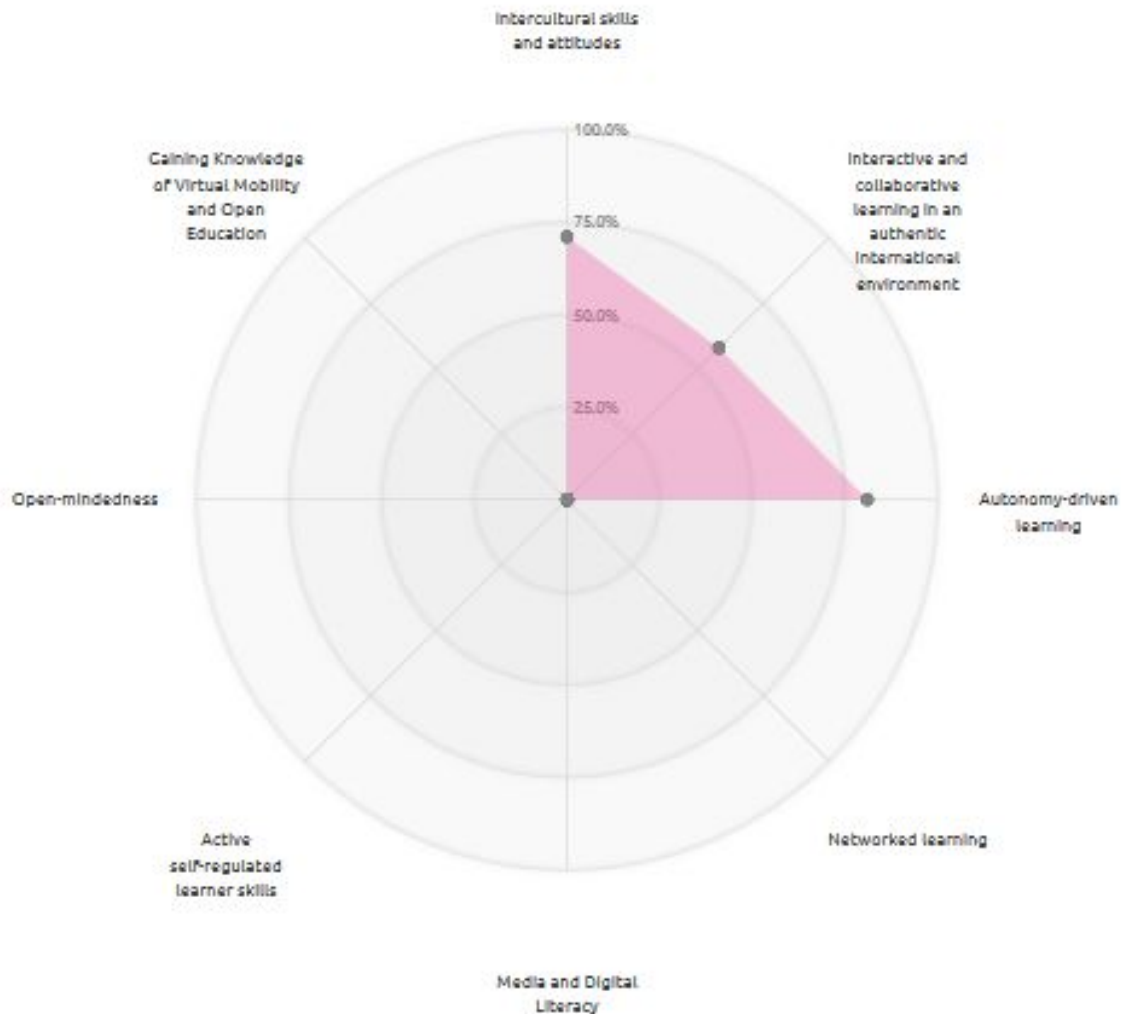
Intercultural skills and attitudes

Gaining cultural knowledge

✓ I am looking for information about the country I visit virtually or physically (climate, geography...)	? 1 2 3 **4**
✓ I read foreign newspapers (translated or not)	? 1 2 **3** 4
✓ I read books written by authors from another culture	? 1 2 3 **4**
✓ I watch foreign films	? 1 2 3 **4**
✓ I keep abreast of cultural trends in the countries I visit	? 1 2 3 **4**
✓ I keep abreast of educational practices in the different countries I visit	? 1 **2** 3 4

Understanding cultural perspectives

✓ I understand and respect people with different cultural affinities	? 1 2 **3** 4
✓ I measure that culture influences behaviour and is an important factor to consider	? 1 2 **3** 4
✓ I know the main cultural factors influencing behaviour (religion, country, social class)	? 1 2 **3** 4

Step 5: Consult your results and see which areas you want to improve.

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The results are displayed as a radar graph as the answers are completed.

This graph is updated progressively as the other sub-skill surveys are answered, so that you can have a simple overview of your strengths and areas for improvement.

4. Conclusion and next steps

This draft is written as an internal document for comment by partners. Once finalised, it can be adapted for inclusion as a stand-alone public document in the OpenVM hub and on the website. In this case it might be advisable to duplicate the step-by-step section for each of the three target groups: students, teachers and international relations departments, so that each can download a dedicated document. This will be done as soon as partners have provided feedback, as there may be other scenarios to add.