

A new approach for harmonising the Laboratory Animal Science education and training in Europe

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Introduction

The Directive 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes establishes that "Member States should ensure through authorisation or by other means that staff are adequately educated, trained and competent".

Since the minimum requirements regarding higher education or training for the acquisition, maintenance or improvement of vocational skills in Laboratory Animal Science (LAS E&T) are at discretion of the EU Member States, different regulatory scenarios are found on LAS E&T courses in Europe.

This fragmentation prevents the mutual recognition of competences and free movement of professionals in the EU.

The Project

In the framework of the Erasmus+ Programme, the so-called "HERMES project" (webpage: www.hermes4las.eu), promoted by a European consortium gathering stakeholders from Belgium, Italy, Greece, Spain, and Sweden, addresses the challenge to support MSs in the mutual recognition of LAS E&T courses.

The proposed solution is a **new voluntary Quality Standard scheme for LAS E&T providers**.

It allows the management of design, setting-up, delivering, monitoring and evaluation of training initiatives compliant with the Directive 2010/63/EU.

This intellectual output (IO1) represents the cornerstone of a structured model that starts from the self-assessment of the LAS E&T providers (with respect to the standard), and culminate in a multi-language European Digital Platform to certify - automatically and on a common scheme - the skills of the personnel foreseen by the Directive 2010/63/EU.

Figure 1. The project scope



Figure 2. Sources of inspiration of the LAS E&T Quality Standard

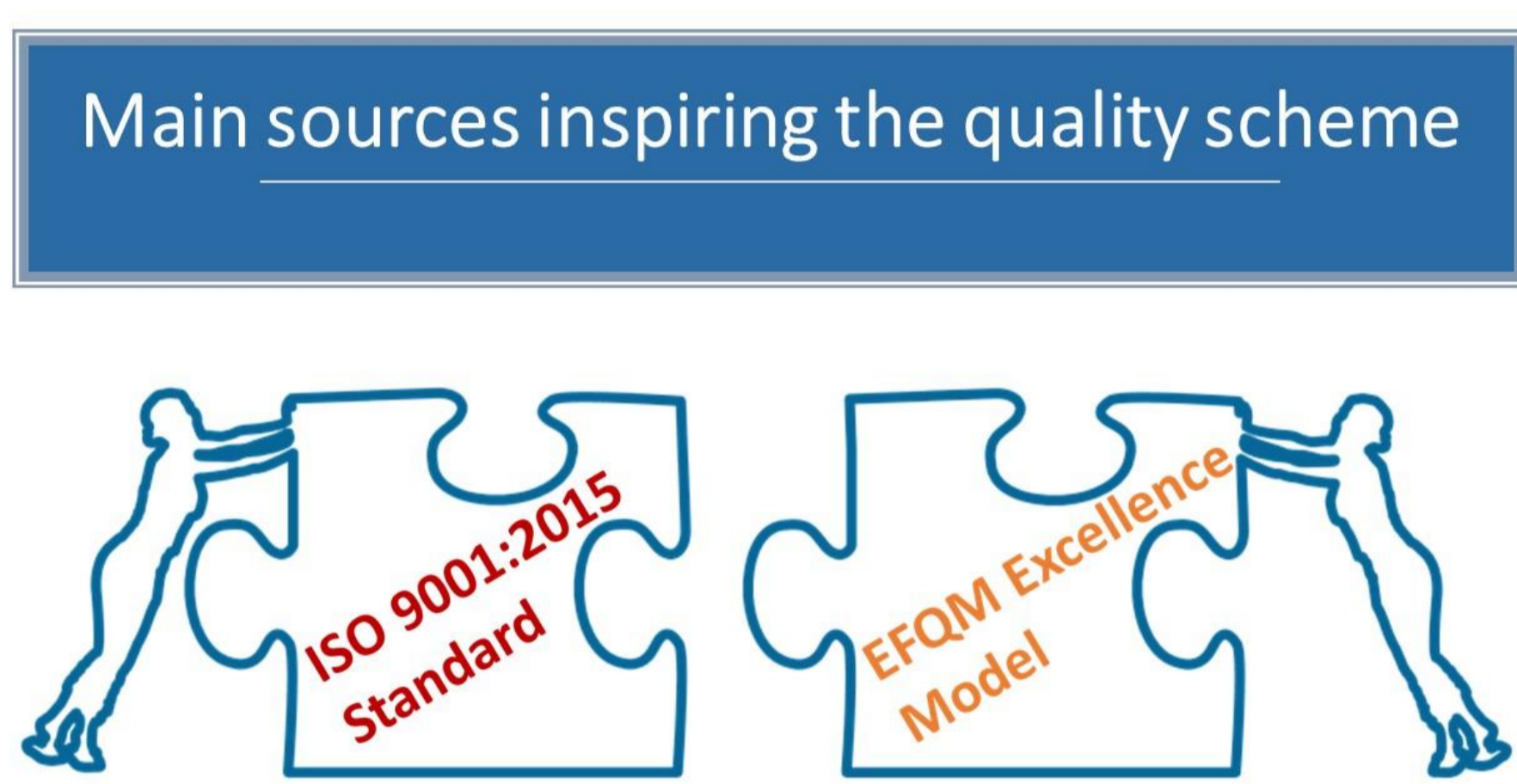


Figure 5. The LAS E&T Quality Standard structure

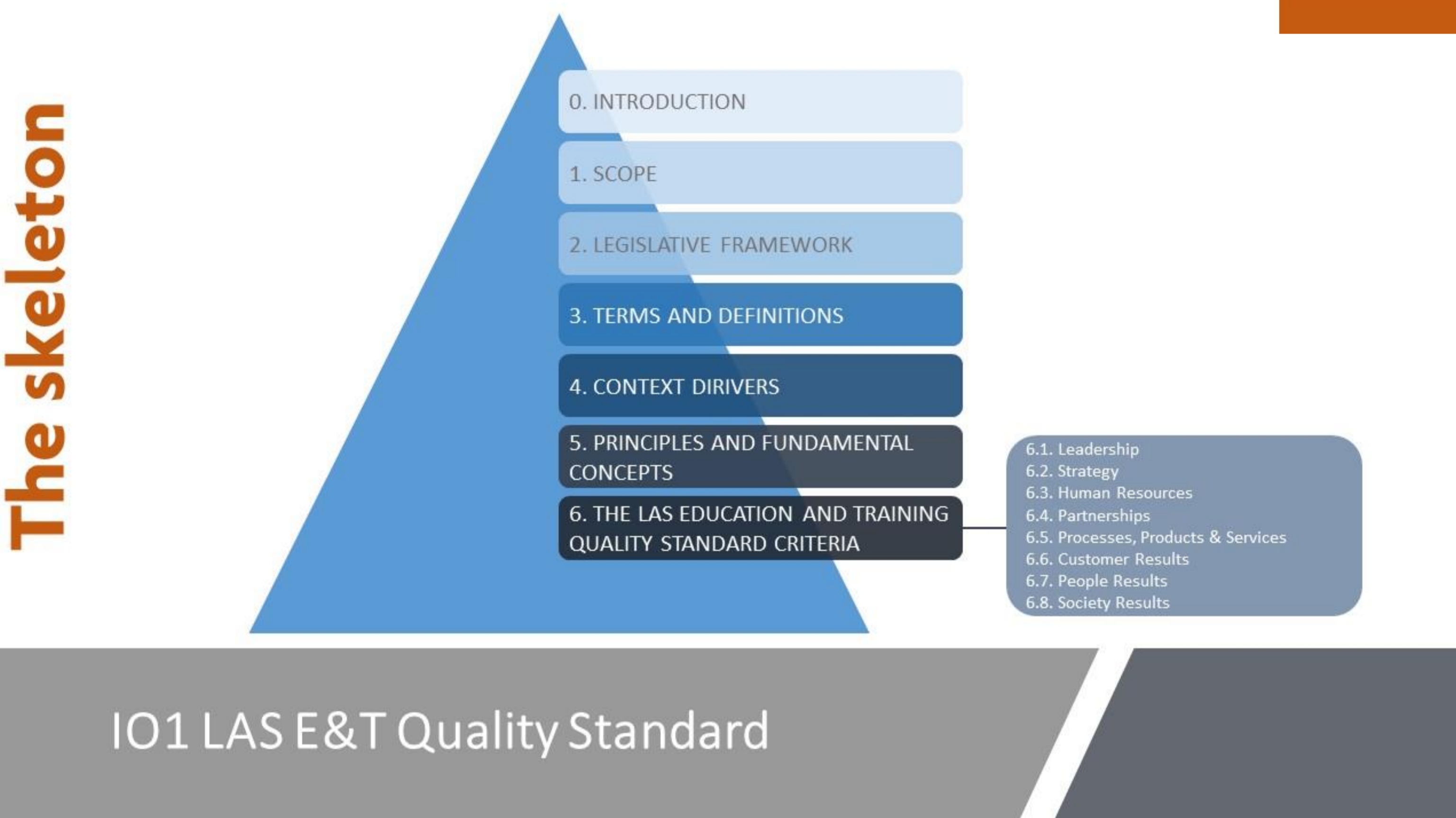


Figure 3. The working-flow for the standard implementation



Figure 4. Key phases of the development process

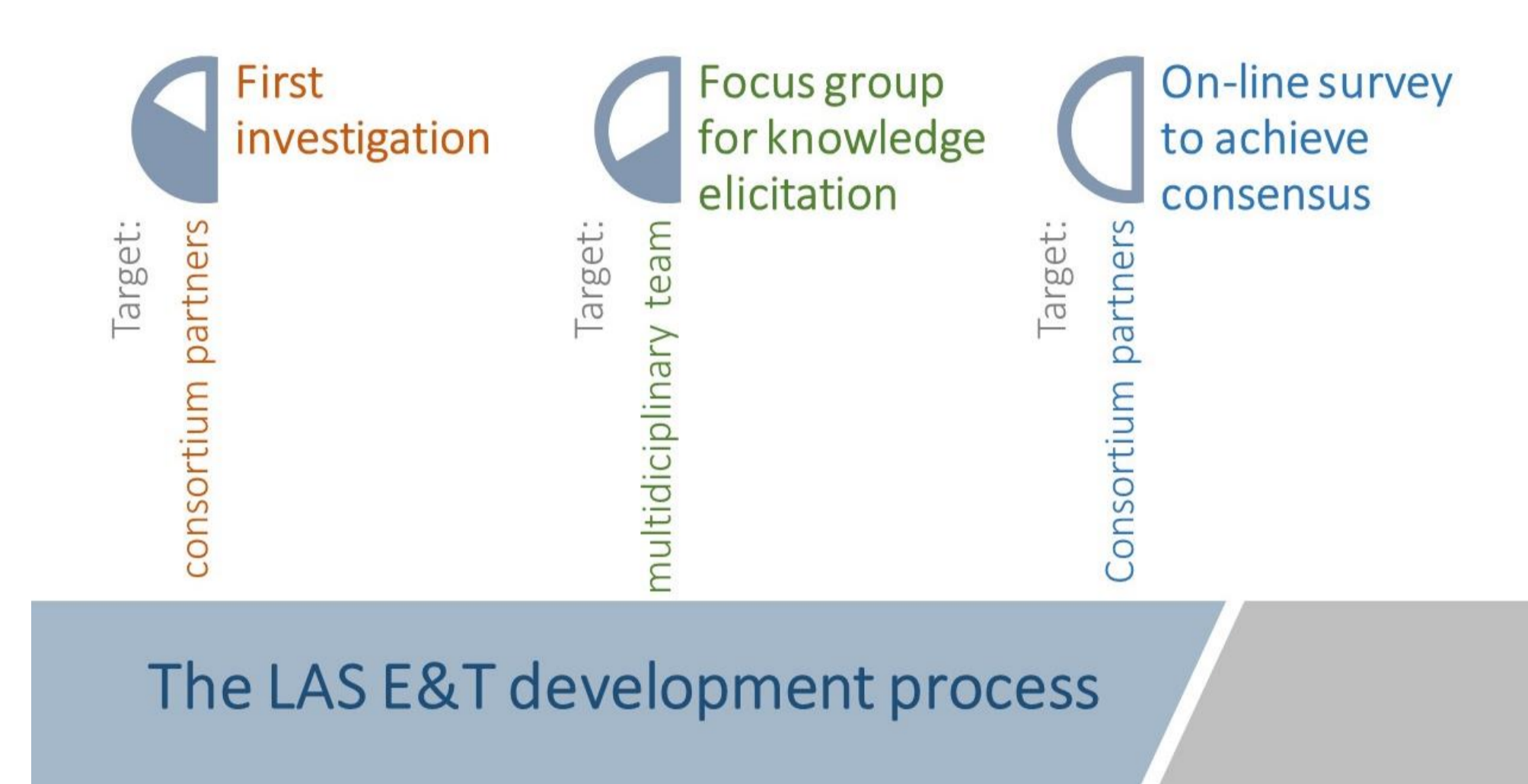


Figure 6. The HERMES Project Intellectual Output 2

IO2: LAS E&T Assessment Manual

This tool intends to provide guidelines for evaluating uniformly the different paths offered in MS for each function described in Art. 23 of the Directive 2010/63/EU.

The guidelines are an advisory set elaborating on principles and procedures related to curriculum development, training methods and resources, or assessment.

This tool, reflecting the requirements of the LAS E&T Standard (IO1), represents the basis for mutual recognition of courses among Member States.

It establishes benchmark qualitative and quantitative indicators for the comparison of programs, essential for the scope.

Figure 7. The HERMES Project Intellectual Output 3

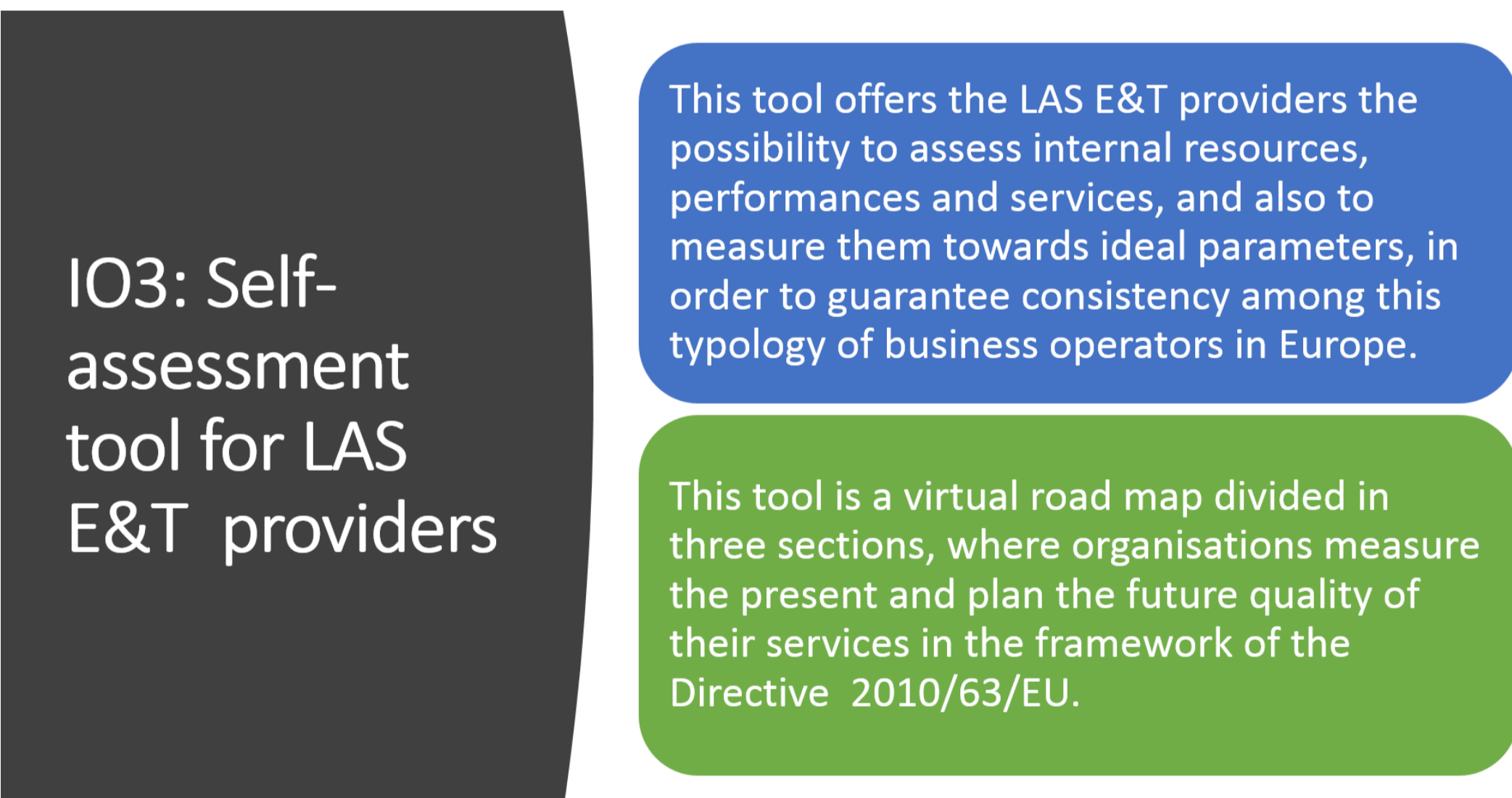


Figure 8. The 3 sections of the self-assessment tool



Figure 10. The training units of the e-Learning course

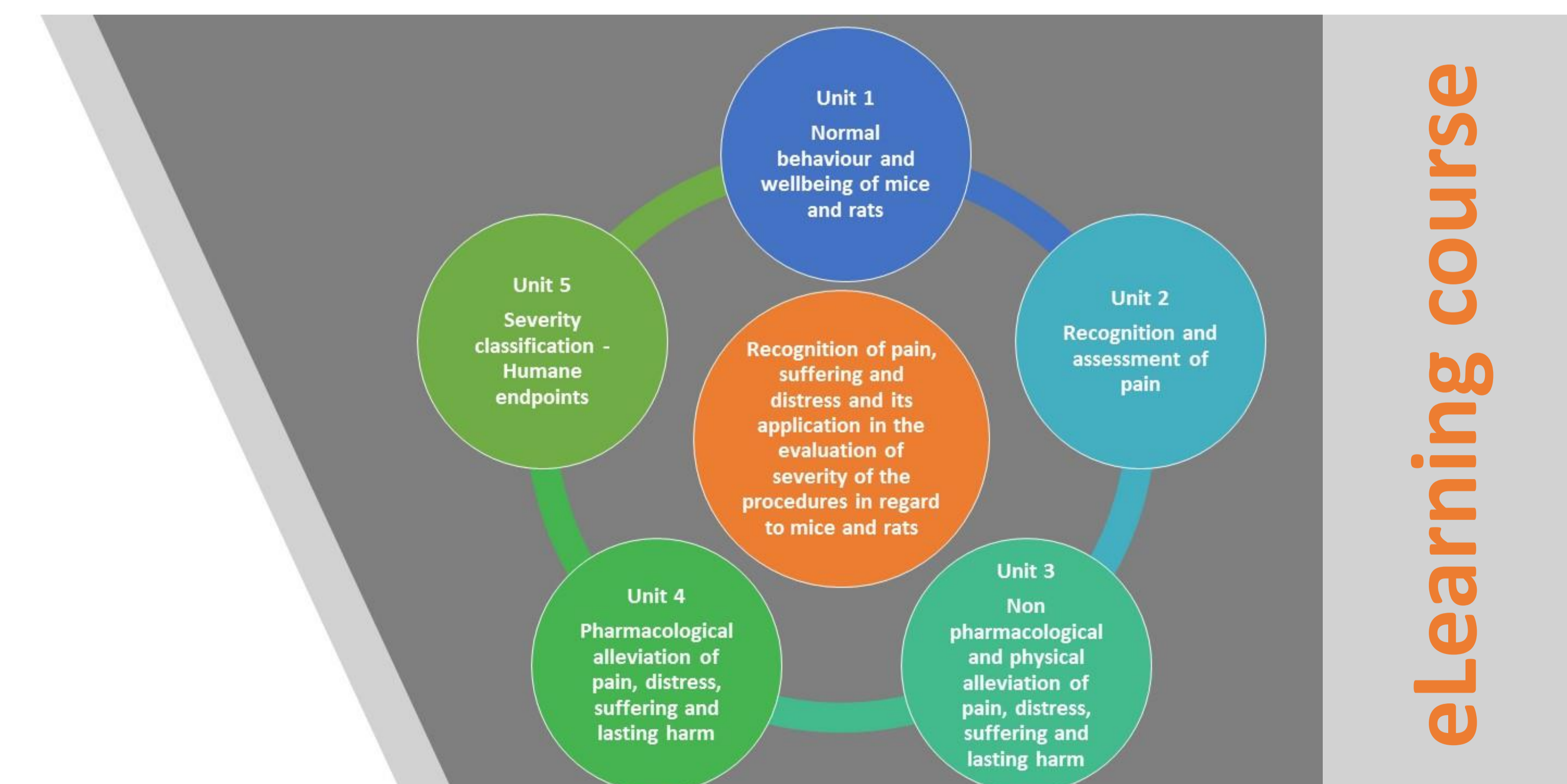


Figure 9. The HERMES Project Intellectual Output 4

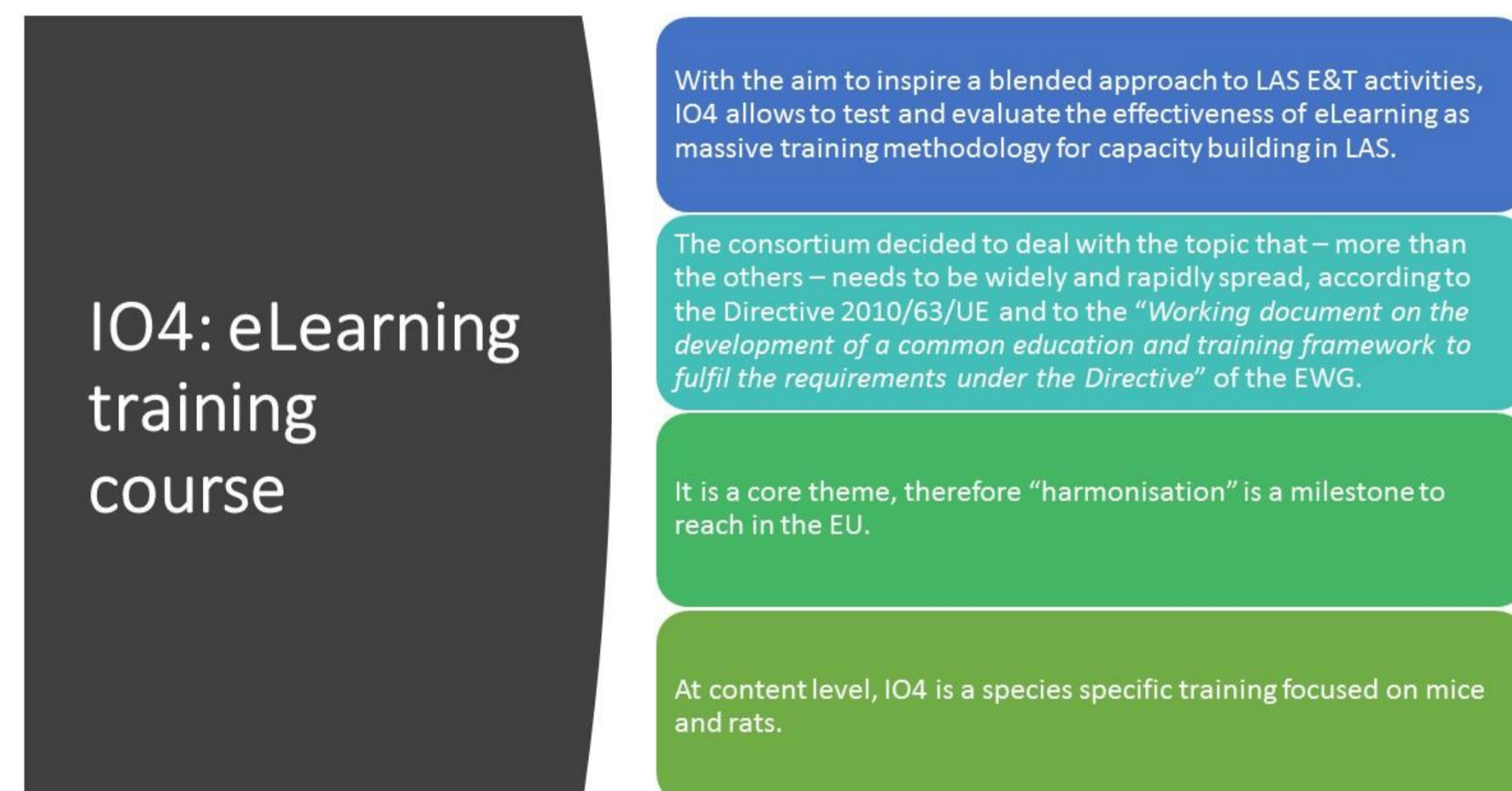
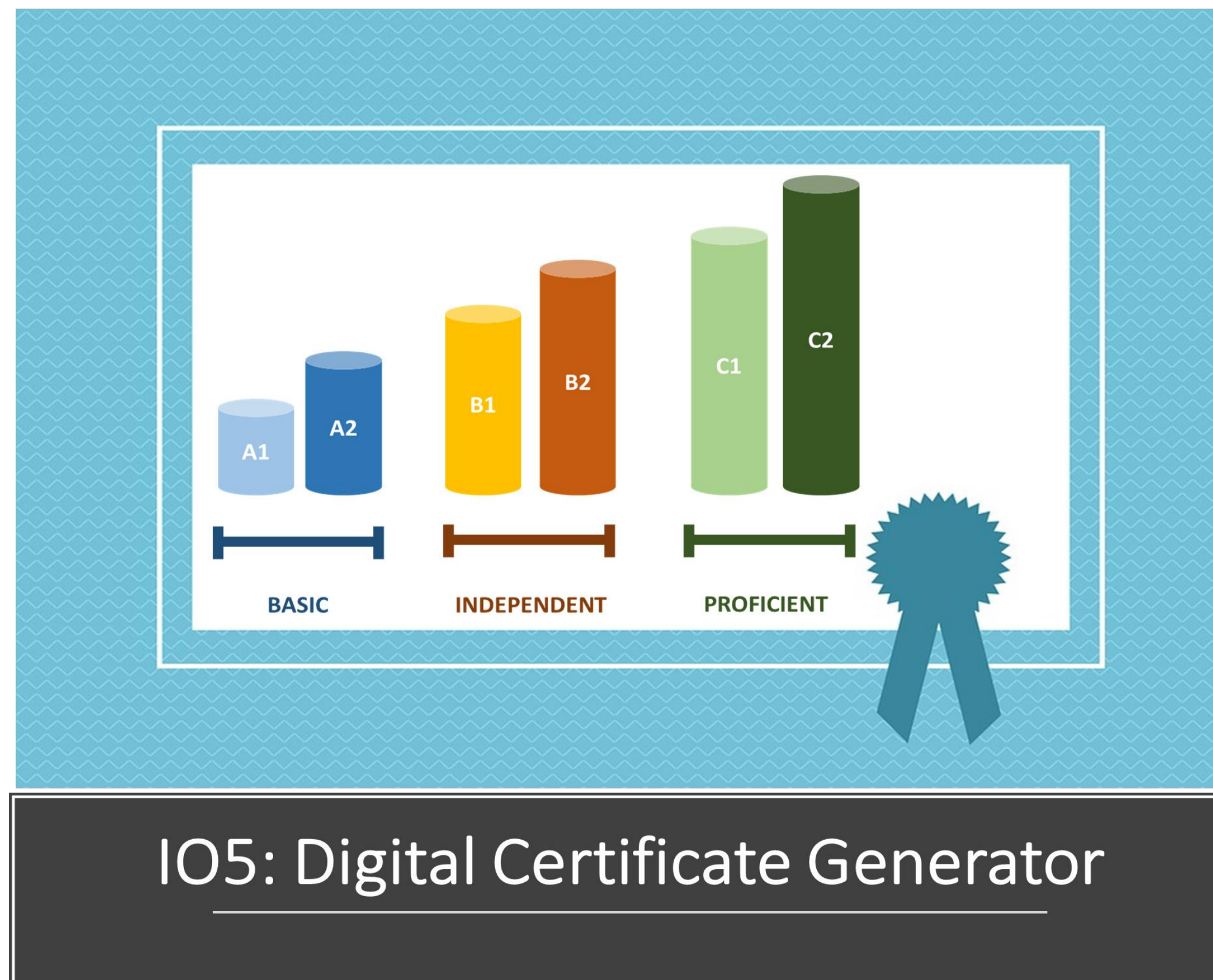
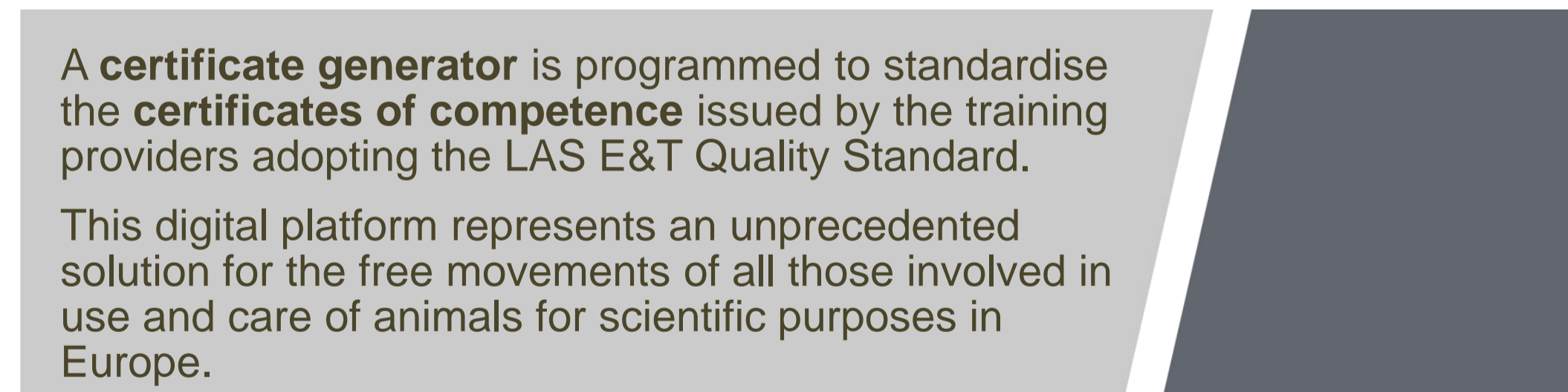


Figure 11. The HERMES Project Intellectual Output 5



References

1. Directive 2010/63/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 September 2010 on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes
2. Working document on the development of a common education and training framework to fulfil the requirements under the Directive 2010/63/EU
3. ISO 9001:2015 Quality management systems
4. ISO 10015:1999 - Quality management — Guidelines for training
5. EFQM Excellence Model

Get involved!

If you are willing to contribute and for further information, please contact hermes@izs.it

