

## The Development of Transversal Skills in an English for the Media Programme in Higher Education (HE)

**Stavroulla Hadjiconstantinou**

Cyprus University of Technology, Limassol, Cyprus

### **Abstract:**

In today's globally interconnected 21st-century world, the European Union emphasizes the importance of education beyond traditional classroom settings, acknowledging rapid economic, educational, and technological advancements (UNESCO, 2020). Higher Education plays a critical role in equipping undergraduates with essential competencies for the competitive labor market. By prioritizing transversal skills in education, institutions not only enhance learning outcomes but also prepare students to navigate complexities within diverse academic and professional landscapes. The holistic development of transversal skills ensures that graduates are not only proficient in their chosen fields but also adept at adapting to dynamic global challenges and contributing meaningfully to society. These competencies, often termed transversal skills or soft skills, are versatile abilities applicable across various job roles and settings (UNESCO IBE, 2013). Transversal skills encompass critical and innovative thinking, interpersonal and intrapersonal skills, media and information literacy, global citizenship, and more (UNESCO, 2016). This study focuses primarily on the integration of transversal skills, specifically critical thinking and media literacy, within a higher education English for Specific Purposes (ESP) course tailored for Media students. It underscores the significance of nurturing these skills among future Media graduates but also for consumers of the Media in general. Secondly the curriculum design presented exemplifies theoretical concepts put into practical application, demonstrating how critical thinking and media literacy are fostered through structured educational interventions.