ENGAGE STUDENTS

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Service-Learning Methogology Toolkit— Comparing Practical Teaching Methods with Service-Learning

Service learning methodology toolkit has been developed to be a practical toolkit for educators who want to promote service learning.

The toolkit gave an experienced-based and evidence-based insight into seven practice-oriented teaching methods in higher education, highlighting the service learning approach. It can be viewed as a contribution to closing the theory-practice gap in higher education teaching. Seven practical teaching approaches were displayed using definitions, examples, and quotes from interviews with higher education teachers: 1) community-based research, 2) project-based learning, 3) (participatory) action research, 4) internships, 5) volunteering, 6) social entrepreneurship and 7) Action-reflection methodologies.

The production of this output has been divided in the following three activities:

- conducting interviews with educators that gave insight into the service learning approach an other related methodologies;
- desk research on seven practical teaching methodologies versus service learning;

structuring and writing the toolkit.

Applied course-work is a vital part of higher education, as it gives students the possibility to engage in practical

"I give classes together with a professor at the class of 'Project of Industrial Design'.(...)The partnership with the faculty happens in this way: the challenge of this project is presented to the students, for whom the objective is to build projects with waste in the city. The students go around town and search for the most abundant waste in the city. The students have to develop products using the waste as raw-material, like: litter from the beach, leftovers from restaurants, etc. The products developed must be easy to produce, since the idea is to have people from the community, with difficulties with social integration in the job market between 35 and 40 years old, to learn how to produce these products together with students from the faculty. The overall objective is that all can learn."

(InterviewC–Teacher in Portugal)

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Mapping	Service Learning	Project-based learning	Action research	Internships	Volunteering	Action reflection	Cercetare bazată pe comunitate	Social entrepreneurship
course-based	X	X	X	X		X	X	
credit-bearing	X	X	X	X		X	X	
organized service activity	X			X	X			X
meets identified community needs	X		X		X		X	X
reflection on the service activity	X	X	X	X		X	X	

*Criteria according to Bringle et al. 2006