

The European Laboratory For Pedagogical Research And Student- Centred Learning

(ELaRA)

Vision

European common laboratory for pedagogical research and student centred learning (ELaRA) part of WP3, EUT+ manifest, is thought to be the research space where a new way of thinking, teaching and learning technology will be analysed. The ambition of ELaRA is to become the place where will be create what could be thought as the teaching signature of EUT.

Mission

In the context of the contemporary world in which we confront unprecedented problems and threats, our mission is to prepare our students for the great challenges of the future, across different disciplines, know-how and cultures. In this light, EUT+ ambition is to go beyond disciplinarily, multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary and to create the proper conditions for transdisciplinary to appear.

Aims

The ELaRA s aims are the following:

- Axe 1 (A1): Design innovative student-centered pedagogies to promote self-directed, lifelong learning in technology education that develop the learner as a person by promoting intellectual development, creativity, problem solving and cultural awareness.
- Axis 2 (A2): Change in higher education, changing epistemologies and teaching practice, teacher development and methods to facilitate evolution.
- Axis 3 (A3): Educating students about the role of technology in society including ethics and professional development.
- Axis 4 (A4): Broadening participation in technology education by increasing female participation and recruiting from a broader spectrum of society including refugees.

Objectives

In this context the ELaRA's global objectives are:

- Build cultural resilience by promoting a continuous process of change and transformation. By cultural resilience we understand "the ability of cultural systems to absorb adversity deal with change and continue to develop (Holtorf, 2018)"
- In the context of EUT+ we must create an open, inclusive and equitable learning environments by participatory learning approach (UNESCO, 2020, p. 49) in which students are getting a new insight of future skills like: multicultural, intercultural, transnational and transcultural competences (Jurcova, 2021); understanding and communication within, between, and beyond disciplines, and other important abilities which will support cultural resilience, along with promoting the diversity of knowledge systems (UNESCO, 2020).
- Transformative learning approaches and teaching practice.
- Creation of a culture of teaching practice signature of EUT+.
- Designing and testing new learning models, teaching methodologies, innovative teaching devices, and inspiring teaching tools, at a European scale with shared methodologies and continuous exchanges.
- Empowering students by putting them at the centre of the carried-out research, by taking into consideration and emphasizing the value of students' initiatives, and by reflecting on the best ways to fulfil the students' needs and on the best ways for them to develop their knowledge and skills.
- Sharing practices and knowledge to consolidate transformative and innovative methods of teaching, to broaden our horizons and to improve the teaching skills and professional development of all teachers, so they can adapt their practice to the increasingly fast changes in the contemporary world.
- Ensuring a better circulation and visibility of scientific knowledge.
- As a side effect we expect this work could help achieving parity of esteem between teaching practice and research across our universities.

Methodological framework

- EUT+ is an alliance of 8 Universities, which means different background, identities and multiculturalism, we must create a space in which we could offer the proper conditions for running **transformative approaches** (OECD, 2018; OECD, 2019; BRIDGE 47, 2021; UNESCO, 2021; UNESCO, 2021) and **innovative practice** in order to facilitate new learning environments for all students and teachers, free of any kind of barriers, following at the same time, the 4 main pylons in education: learning to know, learning to do, learning to be and become, learning to live together (Delors, 1996; UNECE, 2012, UNESCO, 2021).
- Based on specific data from literature and on latest directions in educational research field, this research intitule will be an **open research space** in which all types of research will find a specific space, having in mind that, the main orientation will focus on **how can we contribute to the transformation of the present situation in friendly learning and living environments** (Blessinger & Bliss, 2016; Lopez & Olan, 2018; Bourn & Soysal, 2021; Mertens, 2021) having in mind the complexity of different contexts (Cohen, Manion & Morrison, 2018) and with respect for transdisciplinary approach and philosophy (Nicolescu, 2010).

Motivations

- In the context of EUt+ but also in the context of present global concerns, *transdisciplinary approach* (Nicolescu, 1996) appears to be the only option feasible to the framework of ELARA, with strong *consideration for all traditional or emergent paradigms* in educational field (Khun, 1970, Creswell, 2014).
- More than that, in this particular history moment, *is essential to follow an open approach because inclusiveness is not only putting together student from different countries, it is being aware of the fact that people have different perspectives and perceptions of reality and those different perspectives are complementary, not contradictory to each other, and must be value.*

Roudmap

For short term period (2021-2023) we are going to create the proper conditions for:

- Building and running the institute structure.
- Establishing thematic research and/or working groups.
- Co-authoring joint publications around different research themes.
- Facilitating research and support projects for students.
- Facilitating research and support projects for teachers.
- Create and animate a network of members from all EUt+ associated partner organizations.
- Setting up workshops, round tables or conferences for scientific dissemination and scaling up.

Perspective

Through this new research entity, we join forces to establish the future direction in terms of concrete action and specific objectives for the next two years of the ongoing EUt+ project, in which we want to be one of the cornerstones in achieving all the objectives of this ambitions project. In spite of the fact that, at this particular moment we are a small group dedicated to ELARA as core members, we are determined to overcome all obstacles and build the future European Institute of Research for Technological Education, Smart development and Transdisciplinarity (TEST) in wich we will create a new teaching signature specific to EUt+ alliance (but not only) along with inclusive, equitable and learning friendly environments for all students.

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