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Universidad
de La Laguna



Manchester
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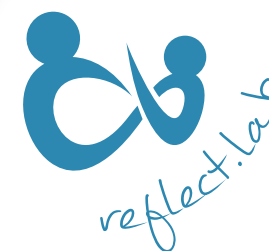


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Supporting lecturers
in applying
inquiry-based
learning

Background

The «refugee crisis» has become a crisis of the whole EU. However, there is still no agreement among the EU member states on how to handle the situation with refugees entering the EU.

Even though many EU citizens are welcoming and supportive, refugees are also perceived as a threat to the internal security. Violence against refugees increases as well as the number of votes for right-wing parties throughout Europe. The EU Commission declares that «Education and training are crucial to prevent and tackle poverty and social exclusion and discrimination, and to build a foundation on which active citizenship rests.» Thus, active and informed European citizens are fundamental for the democratic future of Europe.

Aims

To prevent the spread of social exclusion and discrimination, and to strengthen the European civil society, universities must enable their students to take up a differentiated position and to gain reflection competences. The REFLECT LAB project intends to establish this by supporting lecturers at universities to implement inquiry-based learning in their teaching. Therefore, so called REFLECT LABs – socio-scientific teaching and/or learning laboratories – will be developed. The objective is to establish an innovative course structure which fosters self-directed learning in Higher Education Institutions.

Here ...

- ... students do autonomous research with socio-scientific methods addressing political and social issues.
- ... lecturers accompany and support this process and the critical discussion.

Results

The REFLECT LAB project provides several outcomes for universities, lecturers, and students:

- A needs analysis to figure out the demands of lecturers in the areas of problem-based as well as inquiry-based learning and teaching
- Didactic impulse materials, guidelines for research, and a method manual for students participating in REFLECT LABs
- A didactic-methodological guide for lecturers on how to set up and implement a REFLECT LAB, attractively designed with graphic novel drawings
- A Blended Learning Course: a 5 day training course for lecturers from universities executing a REFLECT LAB in order to get acquainted with the procedure
- An IT-platform for lecturers in social sciences serving for exchange, information, and mutual support
- An 'easy-to-implement-kit' for the implementation of REFLECT LABs at other universities