

Session title: Developing Educational Development in Slovak Higher Education Institutions

Session type: Plenary Session

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Session summary:

Educational development in Slovak higher education institutions is not as formalised as elsewhere in Europe. Although quality teaching and learning is an important institutional metric, the supporting infrastructure is often unformalised and reliant on a few enthusiastic professionals frequently having additional responsibilities. This session outlines the key strategic changes made within two universities thanks to Erasmus+ funding, and offers some reflections on the changes that this has brought about for the educational developers participating in the project.

Session outline:

Key issues that will be addressed in this session are as follows: 1. Context of educational development in Slovak higher education providers 2. Aims of the Erasmus+ project and its intellectual outputs and activities 3. Key changes implemented as part of the overall project which reflect the key learning from networking and study of systems used in other European countries through the engagement of the project partners o The formal support mechanisms established for HE practitioners o Challenges encountered in adopting/adapting systems used elsewhere o The importance of reward and recognition for learning and teaching 4. Reflections from the project: spheres of change o Practitioner: changes to practitioner attitudes to learning and teaching practice including participant feedback on the measures adopted o Education developers: an identity shift from third space professional to a central resource o Institution: changes in institutional attitudes and support to educational development o Wider influence: opportunities that have been allowed for wider dissemination to other HE providers.

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