



Network of Universities
from the Capitals of Europe



Topic 9: Interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary education

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Introduction

- **Shift the university culture:** stop valuing the individual success more than the success of the group;
- **Collaboration is essential** to tackle the major problems we face today;
- **Inter and transdisciplinary education is a essential tool to be adopted by universities:**
 - ◆ Inclusive method;
 - ◆ Facilitates communication, critical thinking and development of synthetic thought.
- A lot of challenges to overcome to fully implement these methods of work.

Recommendations

Equity:

- **Promote equality in University from early on:** ban the excessive use of rankings between academia, normalize courses and the idea that every field is important in its aim, needed and dignified.
- **Guarantee access to all the tools and equipment needed** for inter and transdisciplinary education to work

Funding:

- Dedicate **funds to interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary work** by targeted grants or premiums.
- **Offer positive motives**, such as means and financial support, **to young people, especially from disadvantaged backgrounds**, to join seminars on transdisciplinary and sustainable education.

Recommendations

Teaching and Evaluation:

- Promote a **preparatory phase** for students to take part in before starting interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary projects and courses.
- Promote **quality control for basic levels of communication, cooperation and soft skills** development, to guarantee that inter and transdisciplinary work lives up to high standards.
- Provide **life long learning education to teachers**, guaranteeing they know how to teach in an adequate and updated manner.
- Ensure **cooperation of different departments** to offer elective digital or physical courses with different perspectives on the same topic.

Curriculum:

- **Develop more elective interdisciplinary courses**, with predefined themes, helping students from any field of study to have a more in-depth understanding of the problems.
- Develop and promote a **transversal elective curriculum** that allows students to **explore non-formal education** and develop their **soft-skills**;

Recommendations

University Activities and Collaborative Work:

- Create **debate groups** and promote **think tanks** between students from different fields, academics and non-academics.
- **Raise awareness and visibility to put inter and transdisciplinary work in the public agenda** and to frame problems according to the logic of the public policy cycle to ensure efficient contribution. It should be a gradual process.
- Promote a **stakeholders approach** with an impact assessment when it comes to non-academics, so they can be a viable part of the transdisciplinary approach.

Research:

- Promote **inter and transdisciplinary research projects**, involving researchers, teachers from different backgrounds, including non-academics.
- Build and coordinate a **network for inter and transdisciplinary research projects** and dedicate a **working group to incubate and mentor new initiatives** projects.
- Dedicate a **task force** with inter and transdisciplinary experts to **explore showcased projects, analyse the determining success factors and derive the best practice recommendations** and guidelines for such projects.



THE END .