ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY OF THESSALONIKI

Teaching and Learning Center
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Aristotle innovation Forum

Teaching and Learning Centre

Upgrading teaching practices and pedagogical innovation

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Introduction

- ✓ **Teaching and Learning Centers (TLCs)** are strategic institutional units supporting educational excellence in Higher Education.
- ✓ They foster **pedagogical innovation** and **student-centered learning** through **faculty development** based on **evidence-based practices**.
- ✓ Act as hubs for **innovation**, **collaboration**, and **educational transformation**.
- ✓ European universities increasingly recognize **TLCs as drivers of institutional transformation** (EUA, 2025).

European Higher Education Context

- ✓ The European Higher Education Area (EHEA) promotes **quality, inclusion, and innovation.**
- ✓ **Teaching:** very important to pursue the above goals (EUA, 2024)
- ✓ Universities must adapt to **student-centered teaching** (including changing student expectations), **diversity and digital transformation.**

TLCs
can be the catalysts
for such institutional changes

EUA Perspective on TLCs

TLCs contribute to strategic development and quality culture. HOW?

Faculty Professional Development (FPD)

need for a strategic, holistic, and inclusive approach to faculty development in HE.

Embed FPD in institutional culture, recognize teaching excellence, and foster continuous innovation

Address teaching workload and recognition

Core Functions of TLCs

- Faculty development workshops and seminars
- Educational technology integration
- Support for assessment and feedback practices
- Instructional design and curriculum innovation
- Collaboration among faculty, leadership, and students
- Cross-European collaboration and networking

Faculty Professional Development

AUTh TLC

- Launched in 2022
- Scientific Committee of colleagues who voluntarily offered their services (Educational Sciences, Educational Psychology, Learning Disabilities and Special Educational Needs, Technology, Information Technology Center, Library and Information Center)
- Need Assessment (Faculty survey, >500 participants)
- FPD program: tailored to the needs (webinars, seminars, training events, experts' talks, material development, community of practice)
- 2025: TLC expansion

AUTh TLC

The AUTh TLC aims to

- ✓ To support educators towards a more student-centered, meaningful, inclusive, and future-oriented education.

- ✓ To create optimal learning environments that promote quality education for all students with a deep respect for academic freedom.

AUTh TLC: Student-Centered Learning

Shift from teacher-centered to learner-centered education

- Promotion of active and collaborative learning
- Greater student participation and engagement
- Inclusive and accessible teaching practices
- Flexible learning pathways and personalized support

AUTh TLC: Pedagogical Innovation

Encouragement of experimentation and innovation (student active engagement, motivation, SDT, Teacher-Student Relationships etc.)

Integration of AI and digital technologies

Interdisciplinary and experiential learning approaches (bridging disciplines, crossing borders)

Project-based, Problem-based, Skill-based learning / Flipped classrooms

Evidence-based teaching methodologies

AUTh TLC: Digital Transformation

Learning Management Systems (LMS) and digital platforms

Digital literacy development for faculty and students

Learning analytics and data-informed decision making

Expansion of blended and hybrid learning models

AUTh TLC: Promoting Sustainability

Sustainable Learning in Education

The development of curricula and teaching methods that equip individuals with the knowledge and skills necessary to sustain learning in complex, changing and challenging situations across multiple disciplines

Learning for Sustainable Development

The encouragement of educators and students to think deeply and responsibly about the world and to promote sustainable ways of living. By focusing on **sustainability, social justice, and global citizenship**, we aim to empower learners not only to understand the world but to actively improve it.

AUTh TLC: Evidence-Based Teaching and SoTL

Use of research evidence to improve teaching practices

Promotion of reflective teaching and innovation

Assessment of teaching effectiveness and student outcomes

Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (academic culture)

Building communities of evidence-based practice

AUTh TLC: Challenges

- Limited funding and staffing resources.
- Resistance to pedagogical change.
- Need for recognition of teaching excellence.
- Continuous adaptation to technological developments.

Future Steps

- Expansion of technologically advanced and AI-supported learning environments.
- Further emphasis on digital literacy (critical thinking, misinformation/disinformation, ethical AI use)
- Growing focus on wellbeing, inclusion and study completion.
- Micro-credentials and lifelong learning.
- National and international collaboration and knowledge sharing (EPIC TLC).

Conclusions

- ✓ Teaching and Learning Centers are essential for modern HE.
- ✓ They support pedagogical innovation, faculty empowerment, and student success.
- ✓ Strategic importance for institutional transformation.

Investing in TLCs = investing in the future of universities

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Thank You!