

Transcript Lessons Learned Kit 2

Have you ever wondered, how you can ...enrich your classes? ... motivate your students? ... stimulate their soft skills? Well, there is a way: it's called "ACTIVE LEARNING".

We are a European Project group and we developed a Dynamic Toolkit to make active Learning easy for you to implement in your classes.

We paid special attention to the critical issues typical for many universities and institutions in higher education: a large number of students in the classroom, rigid physical spaces and the balancing act between large programs and limited classroom time.

Now, our Dynamic Toolkit describes 30 innovative practices and related learning activities. We organized our Dynamic Toolkit as an open online tool: All collected teaching and learning activities and methods can be filtered using **4 different categories**: Soft Skills, Modes, Timings and Group size. After choosing your criteria, the list of methods is displayed, and you can choose the one you like best. Each method is described according to the same scheme. You can read all the information online or **download** the PDF file. You will also find guidelines which may help you introduce these methods in your teaching.

Of course, once the Dynamic Toolkit was done, we were anxious to test it ourselves. For this, we had the great support of teachers in France, Italy, Poland and Germany filling in templates, filing logbooks, conducting student surveys and giving interviews. In 15 pilots, the teachers used 9 different methods and various ways of implementing them for a total of 834 students.

The majority of pilots took place in Bachelor courses and involved first year students. The courses were very different, targeting various subjects, specializations and degrees.

Once the course was set to go, many teachers had to change their original plans due to COVID 19 and conduct their courses purely online – but did not have to modify the Intended Learning Outcomes.

All teachers declared to be satisfied or very satisfied with the pilot experience and perceived the level of attention of their students as high or very high without exception.

The students varied in their satisfaction with the active learning methods – due to different contexts and courses and presumably also related to their previous general experience with this kind of teaching and learning.

Overall, the students perceived many benefits of active learning, ranging from fun to the capacity to look at problems from a different perspective.

So, what did we learn from these practical experiences?

To make active learning effective you need to carefully plan it. As the learning environment has its own importance, prepare the room - also when teaching online. Your introductory lecture should explain how this method of teaching is different from traditional classes and let your students know the benefits! They have to know that training their soft skills will be useful for their future and that is directly linked to their employability.

Now, if you ask yourself: How can I offer my students such a valuable experience? How can I spice up my classes and enable my students to develop essential soft skills they will need for the job market?

Then check out our discussion based MOOC *Active Learning for Soft Skills Development* – and learn practical strategies from experienced instructors!