



Teaching for Quality in the Knowledge Triangle – European Institute of Innovation and Technology's (EIT) Coming Quality Assurance and Learning Enhancement Model

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Abstract

The EIT is a new independent community body set up to address Europe's innovation gap and to become a key driver of EU sustainable growth and competitiveness through the stimulation of world-leading innovation. The objective of EIT educational activities is to educate a new breed of entrepreneurs/innovators through excellent EIT master/doctoral programmes focused on creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship.

Traditional academic systems have a strong value system where teaching often comes second after doing research. Everyone has heard of the heavy burden of teaching, no one of the heavy burden of doing research. This is not a fruitful value system if we consider the role education must play for successful and sustainable innovation. Teaching is an art but it is also an intervention, therefore a "before and after" perspective needs to be applied when planning and performing teaching and learning activities. Thus, teaching should be done according to the same principles and attitudes as research is done: clear goals, appropriate methods, critical reflexion and the use of peer reviewing. This can only be achieved by excellent staff dedicated to innovative teaching and with the interest to study and learn from their own educational experiences and results.

The coming quality assurance and learning enhancement model for EIT master and doctoral programs will focus on intended learning outcomes specifically for creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship, aligned teaching, relevant assessment forms and the teaching research nexus. All embedded in the knowledge triangle. This will be further discussed in this paper, together with the notions that a) HE teaching and quality assurance needs to be based on knowledge and research on teaching and learning, and b) quality assurance mechanisms should, in addition to controlling quality, be useful and supportive tools also when planning and performing teaching.