



School Innovation through Teacher Learning: the LLwings Project

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In a time of fast transformation and increasing complexity, education is challenged to maintain its role as a key force driving social development and economic innovation and an equalizing leverage.

Teachers play a key role in making school an effective learning environment where students are helped in developing autonomy and ownership of their learning experience - through the leverages of motivation, pleasure and understanding of the sense of what they learn – elements which prepare for a systematic engagement in lifelong learning and active citizenship once formal schooling is over.

The teaching community is thus central in the innovation of European school systems to *fit for the future*.

This is the key belief of the LLwings project (LLP programme of the EC) - aimed at supporting innovative teacher preparation in the intertwined areas of “Learning to learn” and motivation of students, recognized as cornerstones of successful school education. This includes a specific attention to teachers’ ability to value and integrate informal learning in school, in order to value students’ life-wide background and make curricula more meaningful to them.

By investigating innovative grass-roots initiatives in Europe and talking to teachers, practitioners and school stakeholders, LLwings has identified a set of teachers’ competences which relate to an innovative concept of school built around the life-wide learning experience of its students.

These competences are now the focus of an eLearning system for teachers based on collaborative learning and designed to favor joint reflection on their attitudes, beliefs and practices, being offered material and input to develop themselves their own learning path and contribute to school innovation in Europe.

Top-down imposed innovation barely works in school. Bottom-up cooperation amongst teachers is instead expected to shape viable, context-based innovation and elicit relevant elements which LLwings will bring towards national and European reform agendas in Education.