

Council of Europe Conference

“Competences in Action”

RFDC: moving towards a competence-based approach to teaching and learning

Friday 15 November 2019, 10h30-12h30

Parallel Workshops

Democratic and Participatory methods to foster the competence-based approach to teaching and learning

Workshop 1: The Service-Learning Approach for fostering students’ empowerment and the undertaking of responsibilities within school communities

Background

Service-Learning (S-L) is a pedagogical approach that integrates both students’ commitment and academic learning, by contributing to the society through a significant service to the local community.

Service-Learning is in line with the whole school approach that recognises that all aspects of the school community have a decisive impact on health, wellbeing and participation. By adopting this approach, schools can increase engagement with the community, promoting sustainable improvements for teachers and students.

The overall purpose of Service-Learning is to promote in students a sense of civic engagement and responsibility, in order to foster a positive social change within society. Consistent with the Competence Model developed by the Council of Europe, S-L aims to promote the acquisition of knowledge, values, skills, competences and attitudes associated with civic engagement in students, which lead to an integrated experience within the community. S-L also allows them to practice reflection while experiencing, resulting in an understanding of the diverse aspects of challenges and to reflect upon the effects of the service.

This workshop is aimed at presenting the Service-Learning Approach (theory and methods) and will provide also some examples of good practices developed in secondary schools. Participants will learn how to plan and implement an S-L project in their own schools. A special attention will be devoted to partnership building between school and community organisations and to S-L evaluation.

Main objectives

The main objective of this workshop is to propose an approach for developing a cluster of CDC (Competences for Democratic Culture) dealing with the promotion of students’ participation within schools and local communities.

Sub-objectives:

- To explore how the Service-Learning Approach allows a sense of civic engagement, responsibility and accountability to be promoted.

- To learn from concrete experiences of S-L how an active and reflective learning technique can trigger understanding of a cluster of competences of the RFCDC (Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture).
- To discuss the role of networking and partnership between school, local communities and the labour market to create competences for democratic schools.

Expected Outcomes

- To acquire/increase knowledge of the theoretical framework of the Service-Learning Approach.
- To learn how to set up an S-L project in secondary schools to foster empowerment, critical thinking, and civic engagement.
- To learn how to evaluate S-L outcomes, including CDC.