

Evaluation of School Leadership and Teaching Practice (EOSLATP)

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**Erasmus+****EOSLATP**

EVALUATION OF SCHOOL LEADERSHIP AND TEACHING PRACTICE

A Research & Development Project
LED Research Centre

The Focus

The quality of teaching and effectiveness of school leadership and is crucial for improving students' learning. The project aimed to create tools and strategies in order to develop evaluation processes for school leaders and teachers, with the final objective of improving school results and students' learning. The Project reviewed evaluation processes in the countries involved in the Project in order to create a handbook and evaluation guide and Moodle course containing common good practices related to the evaluation of School Leadership and Teachers' Practice at a European level.

This Erasmus+ funded project is a collaboration between School Inspectors from Basque Country, Lithuania, Romania, Portugal and Italy and the University of Cumbria and Open University, Cyprus.

The Research

The project started in December 2015 and finished in July 2017. There were six transnational meetings, including a week-long training event organized and delivered by The University of Cumbria and one dissemination event. Each Transnational meeting has a final report and newsletter that are available on the project website. At each meeting, participants discussed up-to-date research and professional practice in the partner countries in order to unify criteria, dimensions and indicators that could be used in evaluation of School Leaders and Teachers' practice. The final meeting was an International Conference held in San Sebastian, Spain in July 2017 to disseminate the final outcomes.

The six transnational meetings generally included:

- A short introduction of the school system of the host country.
- A presentation of the inspectorate of the host country (how they are organized, functions, duties, etc.)
- Visits to schools and interviews with School Leaders and teachers that have been or are being evaluated.
- Discussion of the connection between theory and professional practice in partner countries
- Development of materials for inclusion in the Guides and Moodle course that are available on the project website.

The Key Findings

The project provided strong support for the evaluation of school leaders and teachers' practice to be a formative process to contribute to the development of teaching and learning for the benefit of students. The findings from this study emphasise the importance of adapting evaluation processes and procedures to meet local conditions and

priorities. The findings from the project point to the desirability of including the perspectives of a range of stakeholders when designing and conducting evaluation and the usefulness of considering different types of evidence in making judgements about quality of school leadership and teaching practice.

The Implications for Practice

The implications of the project are that the design of evaluation systems should carefully consider the purpose for which evaluation is intended. The project team believed strongly in a collaborative, formative system that aims to help the development of professionals within schools and reflects the conditions and priorities of the local context. Evaluation of School Leaders and Teacher's Practice is difficult and requires high levels of skill across many areas and high quality training of evaluators.

The Outputs and Impact on Practice

- The project is embedded on the website of the Basque School Inspectors
http://www.basque.inspectorate.erasmusplus.hezkuntza.net/web/guest/application_form
- The Guide for the Evaluation of School Leaders is written in English and will also be published in Spanish, Basque, Lithuanian, Romanian, Italian and Portuguese. It is available at
http://www.basque.inspectorate.erasmusplus.hezkuntza.net/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=f2a428f9-8974-4085-99bf-e14989d2ef0b&groupId=200602
- The Guide for Teachers' Practice Evaluation is written in English (and will also be available in the other project languages) and is available at
http://www.basque.inspectorate.erasmusplus.hezkuntza.net/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=b91bd3ae-c1f8-48dc-af33-dddfca80cea0&groupId=200602
- Newsletters of the Basque School Inspectors disseminate the activities of the project (in Basque and English) can be read at <http://www.basque.inspectorate.erasmusplus.hezkuntza.net/web/guest/developement>
- A Moodle platform for the project will be used to store and disseminate materials and publications from the project available at <https://elearning2.hezkuntza.net/900018/login/index.php>
- The findings from the project have been disseminated at the following conferences:
 - o British Education Research Association Annual Conference, University of Sussex, 5th-7th September, 2017
 - o European Education Research Association Annual Conference, Copenhagen, Denmark, 22nd-24th August 2017
 - o UDA Ikastaroak Summer Course, San Sebastian, Spain, 5th-7th July 2017
 - o Teacher Education Advancement Network 8th Annual Conference, Aston University, Birmingham 11th-12th May 2017
 - o Research Institute for Professional Learning in Education (RIPLE) Seminar, University of Cumbria, Lancaster and Carlisle, 16th Nov 2016

If you have read this far and are interested in critically considering issues associated with the evaluation of school leaders and teachers' practice or in the field of learning from international comparison of education in your educational work setting, then please get in touch with us at LED Research Centre. We are keen to pursue further research and development with practitioners / teachers in this area of work. LED@cumbria.ac.uk