

STAY TUNED – CITY IMPLEMENTATION CASE EXAMPLE

Summary

Involving teachers in a changing process towards school success - Aveiro

Case Example Summary

Teacher-student relationship, low attentiveness and empathy, teaching methodologies and programs perceived as inadequate are some of the factors that may contribute to the abandonment of the education system. Considering that school approaches to reduce failure and ESL must adopt an inclusive vision or learner-centred education perspective, an initiative towards teachers was developed. In collaboration with teachers from the University of Aveiro a three days seminar took place in order to contribute to the promotion of students' well-being and school involvement.

Solutions offered by the case example

Implementation of a three days seminar intended to contribute to self-reflection and hetero-analysis of teachers on their teaching and relational practices, in order to promote school success and to combat school drop-out.

The CHALLENGE - Teachers engagement

How do we get teachers on board? How do we commit them to doing the right things? Most teachers in schools are demotivated, teacher participation in initiatives is scarce, they feel tired in part due to excessive bureaucracy caused by excessive legislation; also, due to the number of students with unsuccessful schooling several measures required by the Ministry of Education (Measures to Promote School Success) were implemented which provoked an excess of Projects in the Schools. *"Oh, no! Another project!"*

How was the above challenge overcome?

Topics developed in the seminar's sessions focused on understanding the thematic and the impact of ESL; interpersonal relationships and communication; motivational dynamics; differentiated educational strategies; conflict management in the classroom; team work; relationship with families; etc.

Teachers were given the opportunity to explore various teaching and learning strategies focused on different dimensions of competence and centred on their problems and goals. The existence of a climate of respect and trust was crucial.

What difference has this approach made?

This initiative permitted to create a collaborative network among the school board, teachers, the university and representatives of the municipality. It supported reflection on attitudes, changes in practices and adoption of strategies that favour a positive relational school climate - simultaneously intellectually stimulating and sensitive.

The analysis of the final reflections produced by the teachers, indicates that the topics worked out generated attitudes among the teachers favouring a better relationship with the students, be it at the level of the interpersonal relation, or at the level of the conception of didactic approaches more interesting and dynamic. The attitude to try new ways of doing and interacting with the students, by the teachers, happened in many cases and their evaluation was very positive. The fact that the training experience involved many teachers from the same school contributed to the creation of a common language and a common way of analysing situations lived in the school context.

What lessons might other EU cities take from this Case Example?

Despite the good short-term results obtained, it remains clear that support and recognition from different stakeholders and from social and psychological services are necessary. Otherwise, the sustainability of changes may fail. Each school, each teacher, each student, each family is different. Interventions and supervision need to be tailored to each situation on an ongoing basis.

A shift from implementing isolated ESL measures to introducing integrated, comprehensive actions, involving different stakeholders keeps being the main challenge to be faced.

Key Facts and Figures:

Start and end dates of case example - January 2018

Date of preparation of this case example – November and December 2017

Who prepared the case example? - Municipality of Aveiro + University of Aveiro + School Association Training Center of the municipalities of Aveiro and Albergaria-a-Velha + two schools of Aveiro

Budget – 540€

Extra information and hyperlinks

Annex:



Photo 1. Aveiro Transnational Meeting – March 2018



Photo 2. Aveiro Transnational Meeting – March 2018



Photo 3. Aveiro Transnational Meeting – March 2018