Collaborative Award for Teaching Excellence (CATE)
The basics and the benefits

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Outline

• Introduction to the Collaborative Award for Teaching Excellence (CATE)
• Overview of PEETS journey
• Highlight key elements of the application process
• Consider some of the benefits of applying for CATE
CATE

• Introduced in 2016
• Open to all HEPs including FE Colleges
• One nominated team per institution
• Competition
Promoting Excellence in Employability and Transversal Skills (PEETS)

• Erasmus + Strategic Partnership (€294,000, 3 years)
• Industry informed - developing employability skills (Renewables Sector)
• Interdisciplinary and multicultural teams
  • 42 students, 8 staff – Finland, Netherlands and Scotland
  • Environmental Civil Engineering, Environmental Management, Marketing, Business, Energy Management
• Intensive Study Period (10 days)
  • Year 1 Scotland, Year 2 Finland, Year 3 The Netherlands
Why did PEETS Develop?

Figure 1 PEETS: Core team and our main responsibilities
How did PEETS Develop?

Through creativity, endeavor and continuous enhancement

PEETS Project Management and Annual Implementation (Key Activities)

START 2016

International and employability Competencies (IC)

Student Induction

Stakeholder Consultation

Student Selection

App Development

Key Info Sets on Renewables

London

Kick off meeting

Individual country analysis on renewables
Training materials preparation

Video/online presentations
Of renewable energy issues.

Preparation of survival guide,
[Host Country]

10 Day Intensive study period in either:
Scotland [2017],
Finland [2018],
Netherlands [2019].

Key

Project Management Meeting
(*) = Virtual

Intellectual Output / Activity

Learning /Teaching/ Training Activities
Intensive Study Periods - Scotland 2017, Finland 2018, The Netherlands 2019
Kolb's experiential learning cycle

Concrete Experience
(doing / having an experience)

Active Experimentation
(planning / trying out what you have learned)

Reflective Observation
(reviewing / reflecting on the experience)

Abstract Conceptualization
(making meaning / learning from the experience)

Kolb, D (1984)
Complementary activities

- Self introduction videos – onto VLE
- Employer / stakeholder analysis
- Critical reviews of renewable energy information sets – wind, solar, geothermal
- Student online presentations (padlets)
- Intercultural competence App
Introduce unexpected challenges
Challenges for staff in Finland

Climbing out of the frozen lake!
Continuous monitoring, evaluation and enhancement

• Students
  • Self reflective questionnaire – before and after
  • App - 360 degree

• Staff
  • Self reflective reports

• Project
  • Independent annual external evaluation
Key outcomes and impacts of PEETS

• Enhancement of attributes/skills
  • Self confidence
  • Leadership
  • Communication
  • Coping with stressful situations

Student comment “The best experience I have ever had”
Why go for CATE?

- Personal reasons

- Professional reasons

- Do not underestimate
  - the required input
  - how much you and your team will gain from the process!
Our CATE Process

Internal application

External application

Post application
What must we (you) do and by when?

Be clear on the key criteria

• Eligibility
• Nomination documents
• Formatting requirements
In essence

“clearly demonstrate having an **impact** on teaching and learning through **collaboration**”

1. **Excellence in the teams collaborative approach**
   Team development, student engagement, thematic priorities, external bodies

2. **Excellence in the impact of collaborative working**
   Reach, wider value, impact on student learning
Use your resources wisely

• Team application
• Internal contacts
• External networks
• Previous winners?
• Critical friends?
Capture all your evidence and review critically

What difference did this all make?
The reach, value and impact of PEETS

- **producing transferable outputs and outcomes**
  - S ECTS credit module available across disciplines students and staff
  - 14 nationalities collaborating with professional and interpersonal skills
  - international competence benchmarking

- **enhancing student expertise**
  - APP adopting
  - technical skills and capability

- **enhancing staff expertise and professionalism**
  - improving KPIs
  - teaching excellence including employability
  - income
  - new equipment e.g.: wind turbines, solar chargers, water pumps
  - performance in major awards/events e.g.: Scottish Green Energy Awards 2017, 2018 Going Global 2019 Collaborative Awards for Teaching Excellence 2019 Best Practice Case Study for Erasmus+ 2019

- **enhancing institutional facilities and reputation**
  - extended for all partners
  - NSS

- **PEETS has impact through ...**
  - improved curriculum design
  - social media
  - using STARR Situation Task Action Result Reflection
  - improved grades
  - employability

- **improving student performance**
  - collaborative management
  - publications
  - grant applications comprising 18: including QAA, HEA, AdvenceHE UUKI
  - 2 new Erasmus project applications

- **NSS** improved for all partners
- **teaching excellence** including employability
- **income**
- **new equipment** e.g.: wind turbines, solar chargers, water pumps
- **performance in major awards/events** e.g.: Scottish Green Energy Awards 2017, 2018 Going Global 2019 Collaborative Awards for Teaching Excellence 2019 Best Practice Case Study for Erasmus+ 2019

- **international mobility**

- **2020, 2021, 2022**
The submission – our ducks are in line!
Success!
Moving forward

• Sharing and enhancing good practice – internal and external
  • Mentoring?
• Train to be a CATE Reviewer
• New projects?

• What if you were successful internally, but unsuccessful with AdvanceHE?
  • Review application and feedback against the criteria
  • Adapt and enhance
Why invest time in applying?
The benefits?

• Highest HE teaching award for teams
• Currently rare – only 2 in Scotland
• Developing network of professionals
• New opportunities – projects, publications
• Participants learning – students and staff
Summary

• Our team created a variety of flexible, innovative and award winning learning environments
• Development / enhancement of skills and attributes for students and staff
• The CATE application encouraged us to really scrutinise the reach, value and impacts of our initiative
• The process was “almost” as worthwhile as the CATE itself
Questions?
Thank you

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