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Creation of Learning Communities to Support Informal Learning Spaces

Learning communities for students, lecturers and university administrations



For further information check NIILS Website

Desired results of learning communities creation

• Criteria for best practice examples / case studies / concepts for inclusive informal learning spaces;

• Collection of best practice examples / case studies / concepts for inclusive informal learning spaces;

- Learning community's co-creation framework;
- 5 learning communities (1 x pilot plus 4 x started communities), one in each partner country, each with at least 10 members, including students, lecturers and participants from university administration.

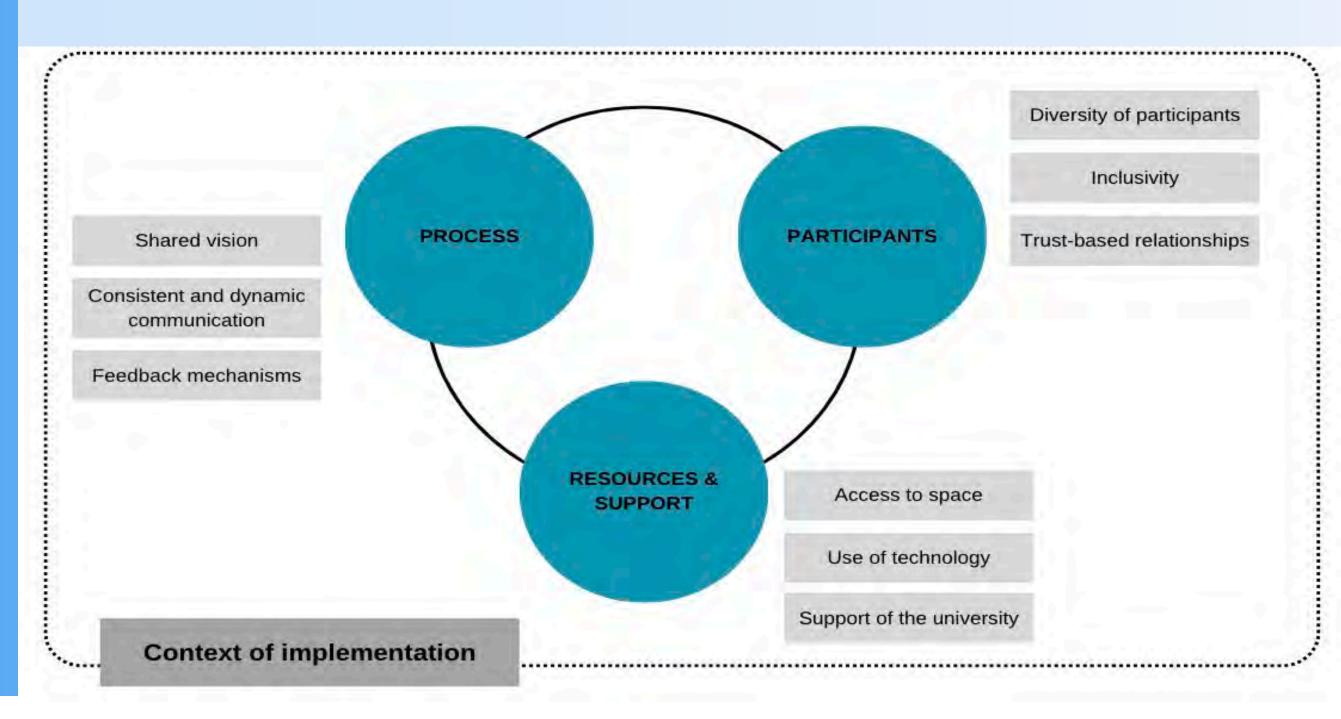
Partner universities

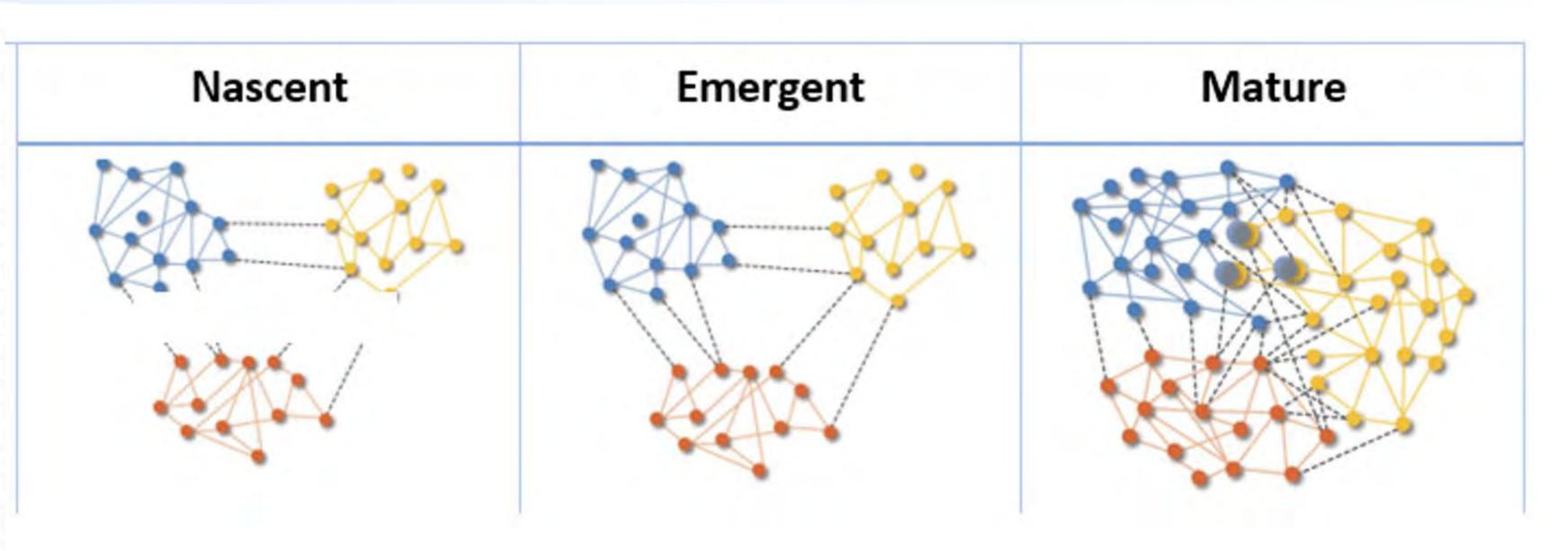
	Founding year	# Faculties	# Studyprograms	Fields of study	# Students	# Staff members
Akdeniz University (Antalya, Türkiye; AKD)	1982	24	171	Health science, Social science, Fine arts, Education, Engineering, Business Administration, Architecture	~ 67.000	7072 (2687 academic staff
Hochschule für Technik und Wirtschaft Berlin (Germany; HTWB)	1994	5	75	Business, Engineering, Computer science, Design and Culture	~ 14.000	~ 900
Mykolas Romeris University (Vilnius, Lithuania; MRU)	1990	4	21	Law, Public Security, Human and Social Studies, Public Governance and Business	~ 7.500	~ 400 (academic staff)
Sapienza University (Rome, Italy; SAP)	1303	11	>500	Architecture, Economics, Pharmacy and Medicine, Law, Civil and Industrial Engineering, Information Technology, Humanities and Philosophy,	> 100.000	~ 10.500
University for Continuing Education Krems (Austria; UWK)	1995	3	200	Business and Globalisation, Health and Medicine, Education, Arts and Architecture	~ 8.000	~ 720

Conceptual framework

- Process refers to the methods and practices which help to execute the learning community in a co-creative way;
- Participants refers to the key stakeholders, their roles and relationships during the co-creation and learning process;
- Resources and support The university can provide resources and support to the learning community to ensure its success.

Maturity of the co-creative learning community





Operations plan of the learning community at MRU

Definition of the element co-created during the workshop

To provide a supportive and collaborative environment for

gender, sexuality, religion, or ability in a learning community are

Piloting activity at Mykolas Romeris University

The foundation of co-creative activities lies in their bottom-up approach.

			Continuous feedback	
STEPS	Establishing a shared vision	Definition of an operations plan	Convening of the community	Initial operations of the community
TIVITIES	Workshop (June, 2023)	with key stakeholders	Outreach and communication	Meetings and online communication

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The informal learning community for Bachelor Th	10313
Preparation is a student-led initiative aimed a	t
addressing the challenges and uncertainties th	at
students often face when preparing their bache	lor
thesis. This community was born out of a	
collaborative effort, informed by consultations	and
co-design processes involving various stakehold	ers
within the university. The challenges student	5
encounter, such as unclear requirements, lack	of
motivation, and unfamiliarity with research meth	ods,
can be daunting and hinder their progress. Th	е
learning community is designed to provide a	
supportive and comprehensive platform to he	p
students overcome these challenges and excel in	their
thesis projects.	

Jilai cu vision	Objectives	students undertaking their bachelor's thesis, enabling them to share resources, seek feedback, and navigate challenges together.
Communication between the actors of community	Modes of communication	Primary Platform: A dedicated Facebook group will serve as the primary platform for continuous interactions, updates, and sharing of resources.
		Meetings: Monthly in-person meetings will be organized to foster deeper connections, address specific challenges, and facilitate collaborative learning.
Feedback mechanisms	Evaluation and feedback	Personalized progress journals. Members will document their achievements, challenges, and milestones within the community platform. Periodic check-ins during monthly meetings can provide an avenue for sharing these updates and seeking guidance from fellow members. This not only encourages accountability but also allows the community to celebrate each other's achievements and collectively overcome hurdles.
Diversity of actors	Membership	Students can join the Facebook group upon invitation or request.
Inclusivity	Measures for inclusion	Students with different backgrounds, cultures, and experiences are involved in the learning community. Factors such as race,

considered.

Operational

elements

Objectives

Conceptual

framework

Shared vision

	Trust based relationships	Moderation	Group rules will be established and pinned at the top of the Facebook page, ensuring respectful communication and relevance of content shared.	
		Collaboration and peer support	Buddy System: New members can be paired with experience members to guide them through the initial phases of their thesis	
			Expert Sessions: Occasionally, a faculty member or an advance student can be invited to the monthly meetings or to the Facebook group for Q&A sessions.	
	Use of technologies	Digital tools	Digital platforms such as video conferencing tools will be used for additional communication. Facebook group will serve as the primary platform for continuous interactions, updates, and sharing of resources.	
			Mobile devices, tablets, and laptops will be used for accessing digital resources, sharing resources on Facebook group.	
	Access to space	Space for face-to- face meetings	A consistent, accessible location, preferably on campus or a quie community space i.e., library.	
	Support of the university	Staff support	University staff members (from the library) will help connect community members to relevant resources. Institute communication will be helping to organize and promote learning community events and activities.	

Learning communities at partner universities





HTW Berlin





University for Continuing Education Krems (UWK)

Akdeniz university

Sapienza university