



## SUMMARIES OF THE SESSIONS

### Thematic Session 3 – University teachers in contemporary teaching and learning

The main messages from the panel on University teachers in contemporary teaching and learning:

1. *The European Principles for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching*, and *The Recommendations of the BFUG Advisory Group on Learning and Teaching*, provide an excellent basis for further development of European cooperation in this policy area.
2. The focus in further developments should be given to pedagogical staff skills development that needs to be supported by a well-established institutional framework and supportive leadership. Recognition of teaching as a professional activity is required so that the academic staff should be judged by merits of teaching, not only by research. **Institutional** approach has proved to be crucial, in particular, during the pandemic.
3. Nevertheless, institutional support is not sufficient. The real impact cannot be achieved by institutions on their own. It could happen only if efficient structures have been set at the **national** level and if enhancing T&L is informed and evidence-based. With the pandemic it becomes even more important that the cooperation structures are functioning at the **European** level. Different structures must work with each other. Countries have developed different approaches but the mutual support is needed to deal with the future challenges. It is all about meaningful conversation. **We are stronger if we work together.**
4. **Digital transformation** is happening and a new culture of learning is emerging that is dragging teachers from an isolated role into an institutional alliance. The crisis taught us that teachers are able to deal with emergency situations but we need to meet the future challenges by developing future skills. **Emergency remote teaching** was an efficient reaction to crisis but we need to go further. Now some are more concerned about going back to 'old normal' – they want 'new normal'. However, inspired by the potential of digital transformation **we need to be reminded to keep people in the middle, and not technology.**
5. There is a strong need for **innovation** and **sharing** open educational resources as well as for an overall **support** to teachers and among teachers as well as for students in shifting to a new paradigm of co-creation of the T&L process.



6. **Open learning** is not just learning new technology but greater student involvement. However, research shows us that there is a big gap between policy discussion and practical application.
7. The **new pedagogy**, that has been only accelerated with the pandemic, is about focusing on students. And only if we do so, diversity can be truly valued. We should value students' diversity and engage them into an open learning process.
8. **Online pedagogy** can be very rich and lead to individualized learning process better than when we have a number of students in a classroom. Online learning is opening new pathways for flexibility. Students are autonomous learners and we must support them.
9. Developing online teaching material is not cheap. Sharing resources is one of benefits of the COVID-19 crisis. However, availability of online teaching material is not a dimension that makes open education work. **Sharing culture** makes it work. Alliances of teachers create sense of ownership.
10. Today we are presenting **students** with ready-made curricula. We must start to break this model. **Many HEIs involve students in curricula/course re-design**. Nevertheless, both teachers and students, at a large scale, should change their paradigm.
11. Students should not be excluded from **decision-making** during the crisis. **Active involvement of students becomes important now more than ever. We must thrive to ensure that students and teachers are connected and motivated.**

#### Relevant sources:

- EFFECT project - <https://eua.eu/101-projects/560-effect.html>
- European Principles for the Enhancement of learning and teaching & Guiding questions - [https://eua.eu/downloads/publications/eua%20brochure%202\\_appendix%202\\_fin\\_single%20page.pdf](https://eua.eu/downloads/publications/eua%20brochure%202_appendix%202_fin_single%20page.pdf)
- National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education - <https://www.teachingandlearning.ie/>
- Bologna Follow-up Group Advisory Group on Teaching and Learning - <http://www.ehea.info/page-Advisory-Group-2>
- Future Skills - [www.nextskill.org](http://www.nextskill.org)