PASCL

The European Students' Union
REPRESENTING STUDENTS
SINCE 1982

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european students' union

PASCL PROJECT

Introduction to Student Centred Learning

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1 Introduction

HELLO
quickmeme.com

The European Students' Union

- **The European Students' Union (ESU)** is an umbrella organisation of **45 National Unions of Students** from **38 different countries**. Through its members, ESU represents over 15 million students in Europe.

- The NUSes are open to all students in their respective country regardless of political persuasion, religion, ethnic or cultural origin, sexual orientation or social standing.

- Our members are also student-run, autonomous, representative and operate according to democratic principles.

ESU is member of the European Youth Forum

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NUS – Full members

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www.esu-online.org

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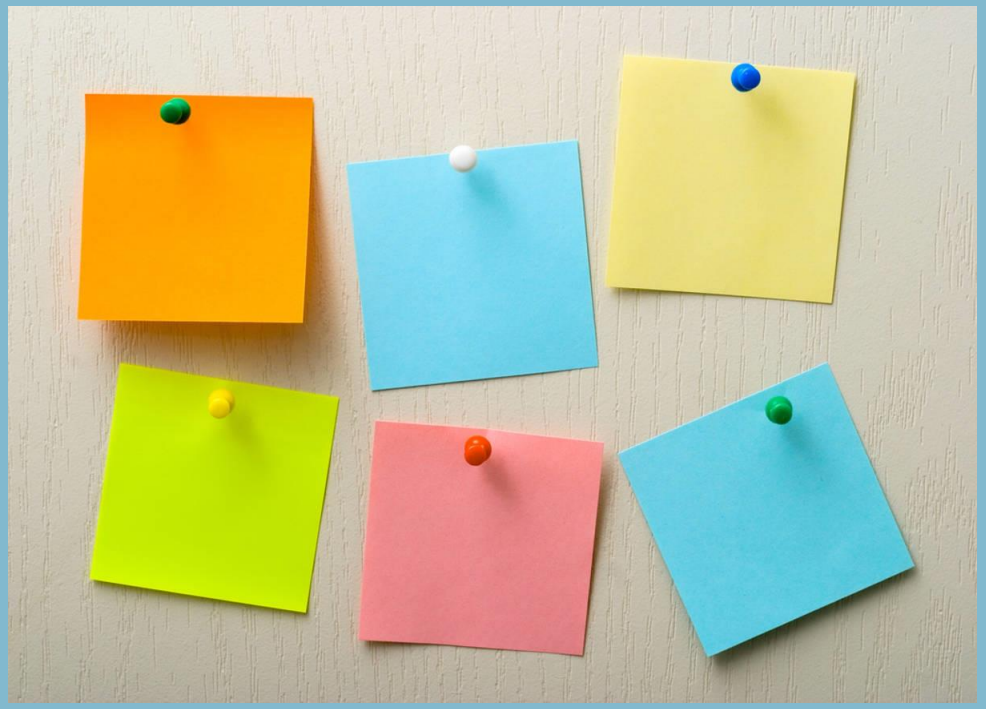
STUDENT CENTRED LEARNING, the term

How would YOU define it?

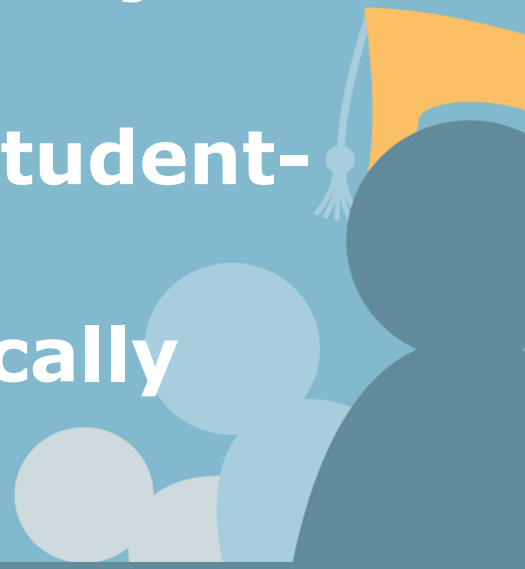


Common misconceptions

- SCL does not mean anything in practice
- SCL requires higher amount of resources
- SCL is not appropriate to teach a large and diverse student body
- SCL undermines the teaching profession
- Students have more work to do in SCL
- Teachers have to do more preparatory work in SCL

Common misconceptions

- Problem based learning is the same as SCL
- SCL is not suitable for all academic fields
- SCL students learn very little subject-matter
- Not all teachers can teach in student-centred way
- SCL requires being technologically minded



Definition

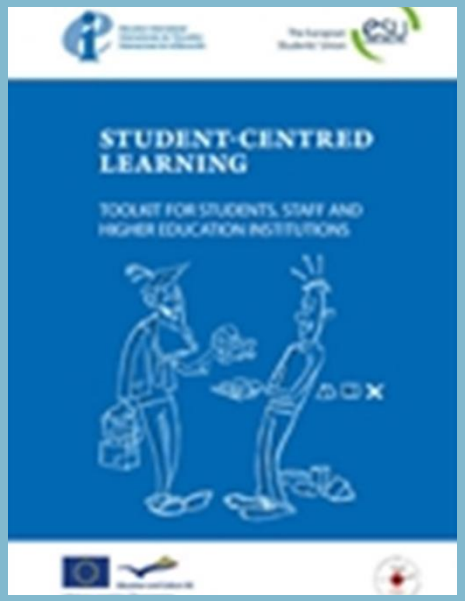
Student-Centred Learning

*represents both a **mindset and a culture** within a given higher education institution and is a learning approach which is broadly related to, and supported by, **constructivist theories of learning**. It is characterised by **innovative methods of teaching** which aim to promote learning in **communication with teachers and other learners** and which take students seriously as active participants in their own learning, fostering transferable skills such as problem-solving, critical thinking and reflective thinking.*

3 Concept of Student Centred Learning

State of play

No common understanding



Keystones of project

- One-year project starting autumn 2009, ending autumn 2010.
- Includes content work and research, local events and a student/staff union development component.
- Aims at developing policy on SCL within ESU but also beefing up work on the topic within unions.
- Will feed into SCL topic at Bologna process level
- Developed toolkit

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Education and Culture DG
Lifelong Learning Programme

Education International
Internationale de l'Education
Internacional de la Educación

Principles of SCL

I. SCL requires an on-going reflexive process
II. SCL does not have "One size fit all" solution
III. Students have different learning styles
IV. Students have different needs and interests
V. Choice is central to effective learning in SCL

Principles of SCL

VI. Students have different experiences and background knowledge

VII. Students should have control over their learning

VIII. SCL is about "enabling" not "telling"

IX. Learning needs cooperation between students and staff

Integral components

- Flexibility and freedom of learning
- Better quality teaching and teachers
- Clear mutual understanding
- On-going improvement
- Positive attitude and learning environment
- Focus on Learning Outcomes
- Benefits for both students and teachers

SCL Toolkit- checklist

- Toolkit provides explanation of the concept, as well as guidelines for implementation
- Indicative checklist of what may be required in terms of successful implementation of the SCL approach
- Available at www.esu-online.org

1. Consultation with Students [Tick as Appropriate]		Yes	No
1.1	Are there transparent procedures in place for students to be able give feedback on the quality of the educational process?	❍	❍
1.2	Are students consulted on curriculum content?	❍	❍
1.3	Are students consulted on the teaching and evaluation methods used?	❍	❍
1.4	Are students involved in periodic programme quality reviews?	❍	❍
1.5	Are students involved as full and equal members in committees where issues relating to the student experience are discussed at all levels (e.g. department, faculty, university, etc.)?	❍	❍
1.6	Are straightforward procedures in place for students to appeal decisions regarding their academic attainment or progression?	❍	❍

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SCL in practice

Can you visualise...

... implementation

Examples and experiences

5 PASCL project and assessment procedures

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Peer Assessment of Student Centred Learning in Higher Education Institutions in Europe

What is it all about?

"PASCL aims to assist in implementing sound student-centred learning (SCL) strategies and approaches at institutional level and to foster a culture of SCL in higher education institutions across Europe."

Aims

- **Developing a peer assessment framework** for "student-centeredness" of a higher education institution, leading to the award of a European recognition for Student-centred institution;
- Giving higher education institutions insight into their **performance in implementing** student centred learning and room for further improvements.
- Making visible the teaching mission of the HE institutions, **rewarding excellence in teaching**
- **Facilitating peer learning** by presenting existing practices, discussion and evaluation of the approaches in teaching and learning

Project partners (Consortium)

- ESU – Legally Registered as ESIB – The National Unions of Students in Europe
- Network of Universities from the Capitals of Europe, UNICA
- University of Jyväskylä
- Közép-európai Egyetem (Central European University)
- Melius s.r.l.
- Knowledge Innovation Centre (Malta) Ltd (KIC)

Deliverables

- Research Study - Overview on Student Centred Learning in Higher Education in Europe
- Set of Criteria for SCL Peer Assessment
- Guidelines for SCL Peer Assessment

- Experts' trainings
- Experts' handbook
- Pilot site visits

- PASCL pool of experts
- SCL site visits

- Online dissemination
- 2 annual conferences
- Final conference

- Management meetings
- Research meetings

Assessment

- **What is assessment**
- **How does it work**
- **ESG Standard for Internal Quality Assurance**
- *Standard 1.3 Student-Centred learning , teaching and assessment*

“Institutions should ensure that the programmes are delivered in a way that encourages students to take an active role in creating the learning process, and the assessment of students reflects this approach.”

PASCL opportunities

- How can you get involved

1. Nominate University
2. Apply for the pool of experts
3. Send us your story

- Follow FB: PASCL Project
- Pascl.eu

? Questions ?

! Comments !

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That's all folks!
THANK YOU

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