InclusiPHE

Good practices of inclusive student engagement in Professional Higher Education
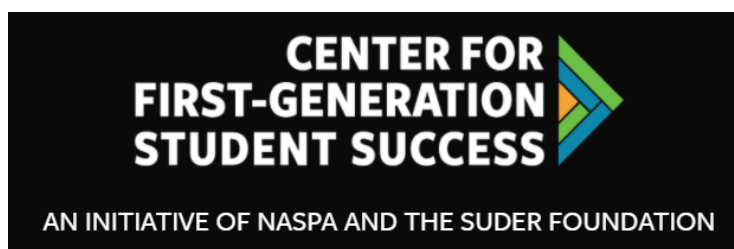
In order to meet the needs of the diverse student body, Professional Higher Education institutions need to take various measures. These include, for example, institutional measures such as comprehensive student counselling or the establishment of a childcare centre, but also measures at national or international level. In the following we would like to present a few good practice examples for making non-traditional student engage with their institutions and student-led organisations. The examples have been tagged with various hashtags that indicate the target group, the topic and the engagement level.

Contents:

Initiative: Center for First Generation Student Success

[URL](URL)

Hashtags: #FirstGenerationStudent #GroupAwareness #Connection #InternationalLevel

Short description - What is it about?

Centre for First-Generation Student Success, an initiative of NASPA (the leading association for the advancement, health, and sustainability of the student affairs profession) and The Suder Foundation, is the premier source of evidence-based practices, professional development, and knowledge creation for the higher education community to advance the success of first-generation students. The Center for First-generation Student Success responds to ongoing and emerging policy issues that intersect with first-generation college student identities.

Target group

- First generation students

Activities

- Build engaged communities across higher education that foster, recognize, and celebrate excellence in serving first-generation student success
- Develop and promote scholarly research and data-informed practice as the primary clearinghouse for post-secondary education to advance first-generation student persistence and completion
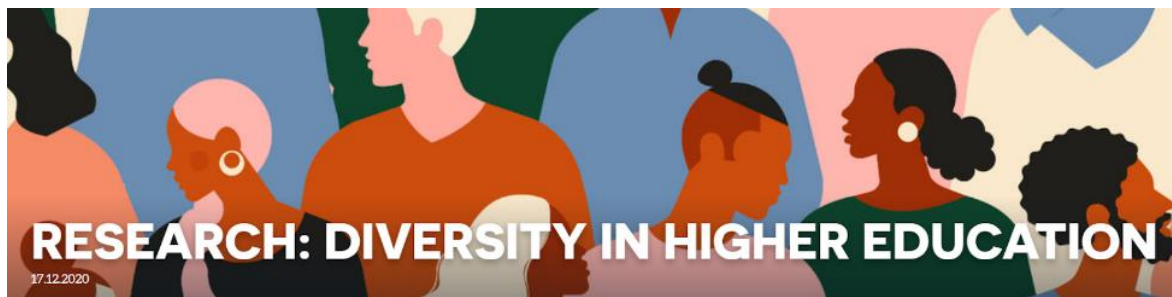
- Create innovative programmes, drive evidence-based solutions, and provide professional development opportunities designed to drive systemic, scalable impact in improving first-generation student success
- Be a catalyst and thought leader for advancing critical first-generation student success conversations through national convenings, advocacy, and policy influence

The Board of Inspiration

RESEARCH: DIVERSITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION
17.12.2020

[URL](URL)

Hashtags: #MulticulturalBackground #InstitutionalLevel

Short description - What is it about?

All the involved students have a multicultural background and together with researchers of UCLL they identified 10 barriers for students with multicultural backgrounds in higher education. With their testimonials and input we try to tackle these challenges.

Target group

- Students with multicultural backgrounds

Activities

- Identify barriers for students with multicultural background in higher education

A-Crew

Hashtags: #NonTraditionalStudents #InstitutionalLevel #GroupAwareness

Short description - What is it about?

Students with a "non-traditional story" (first generation students, students with a multicultural background, LGBTQIA + students, etc.) are engaged as student ambassadors and role models, known as the A-crew. They talk with (soon-to-be) students and/or their parents about their own experience, e.g. at secondary schools, information events at community centres, mosques, etc.

Target group

- All young people who are interested in studying
- especially young people with diversity characteristics

Activities

- As an ambassador you tell about your obstacles, your motivations, your pleasant experiences but also less pleasant moments. In this way you give the students a concrete view of student life.

Summer Start

Hashtags: #FirstGenerationStudents #InstitutionalLevel #GroupAwareness

Short description - What is it about?

First generation students often struggle with low self-esteem and insecurities while starting higher education. By organising a (optional) Summer Start, UCLL gives them a head start by introducing them to teachers, fellow students, student services, etc. After this Summer Start, they can engage in a longer participatory project to keep in touch with each other and provide UCLL with 'inside-information' about barriers they experience throughout their learning experience.

Target group

- First generation Students

Activities

- The students meet fellow students, teachers and student counsellors and will work with them in various workshops.

○ **Spectrum**

URL

Hashtags: #GenderIdentity #SexualOrientation #GroupAwareness #InstitutionalLevel

Short description - What is it about?

Spectrum is a student-driven organisation that brings LGBTQIA+ students (and their allies) together. They share their coming out stories, organise chat-sessions and educate fellow students and UCLL staff on challenges for the LGBTQIA+ community.

Target group

- Members of the LGBTQIA+ community

Activities

- create a home where everyone is welcome, regardless of gender, sex, sexual preference, origin, education, educational institution
- provide input on the differences in gender and sexuality, pointing out the correct terminology.
- organise events for members and fellow students

Corporate Social Responsibility

[URL](#)

Hashtags: #EncourageParticipation #AllStudents #InstitutionalLevel

Short description - What is it about?

CSR – Community Social Responsibility - an initiative throughout MCAST that awards 2 credits for participating in inter-intra skills workshop and doing 20 hours of voluntary work to give something back to the community. This programme should help to develop and cultivate skills, attitudes and values for the real world and empower young and adult learners to become active citizens and be employable in a dynamic democratic society and economy.

Target group

- All Students

Activities

- MCAST students have had the opportunity to carry out community work through various areas such as the environment, culture, education, sports, social care, among others.

Diversity 4 Equality

URL

Hashtags: #NationalLevel #SocialEntrepreneurship #AllStudents

Short description - What is it about?

The Diversity 4 Equality student initiative aims to be a cross-cultural community of impact entrepreneurs that fosters the development of socio-business initiatives that promote inclusive development and contribute to reducing social inequality or environmental impact. Creating positive impact in our communities is what unites us and the shared purpose of reducing inequality gaps is what activates us as social entrepreneurs under the motto "mind the gap".

Target group

- All Students
- Communities in other countries

Activities

- create programmes based on accessible, open and understandable methodologies so that anyone who wants to can be an entrepreneur and create social impact
- Avant-garde transformation method based on learning through creation
- Transformational process through boot camps, mentoring and acceleration for winning teams of hosted challenges on the African and American continent

Wellbeing Hub

[URL](URL)

Hashtags: #SupportService #AllStudents #InstitutionalLevel

Short description - What is it about?

Support Services within MCAST including Counselling and Career Guidance services

Target group

- All Students

Activities

MCAST provides services for students who need support. These Services include:
- Therapy Service
- Addiction-related issues
- Mental Health Services
- Nutritional Advice
- Tobacco Cessation Support
- Sexual Health Services

Learning Support Unit

Hashtags: #InstitutionalLevel #LearningDifficulties #SupportService

Short description - What is it about?

LSU (Learning Support Unit) within MCAST provides extra-support for students with learning difficulties, including an EQF level 1 Award in Vocational Skills that helps students with learning disabilities or learning difficulties consolidate the skills necessary to gain and maintain employment or to further their education. The course includes basic training for the students to secure employment with lessons in Hospitality, Office Skills, and Production and Retail, as well as Key Skills such as Maltese, English, Mathematics, PSHE, IT, and Daily Living and Community Skills.

Target group

- Students with learning difficulties
- Student with impairments

Activities

- consider different teaching and learning strategies to help you acquire the basic skills in line with the set Key Skills syllabi, from the foundation programmes to higher level courses
- Support during foundation level courses
- Extra support in courses at other levels

I Belong

[URL](URL)

Hashtags: #NationalLevel #Refugees #MigrationBackground #SupportService

Short description - What is it about?

I Belong Programme supports third country nationals and refugees in improving their language skills and knowledge of the Maltese history and culture, to ultimately complete the minimum requirement for a long-term residence status.

Target group

- Refugees
- Students with Migration Background

Activities

Offers the following courses:
- Stage 1: Pre-Integration Certificate
  - Maltese language for integration (MQF Level 1) - 20 hours
  - English language for integration (MQF Level 1) - 20 hours
  - Cultural orientation* (MQF Level 1) – 20 hours
- Stage 2: Integration Certificate (one of the requirements for Long-Term Residence Status)
  - Maltese language for integration (MQF Level 2) - 50 hours
  - Cultural orientation (MQF Level 2) - 120 hours

TEFCE Toolbox for Community Engagement in HE

URL

Hashtag: #SelfAssessment #Guidelines #InternationalLevel #AllStudents #Institutions

Short description - What is it about?

The objective of the TEFCE project is to develop innovative and feasible policy tools at the university and European level for supporting, monitoring and assessing the community engagement of higher education institutions.

Target group

- Higher Education Institutions and staff
- Students involved in community engagement

Activities

- provides a framework for universities to undertake a learning journey to discover the range of ways in which their staff, students and external communities cooperate,
- to determine the level of mutual benefits achieved through this engagement and to discuss in a participative way how community engagement can be further improved
- provides instructions to increase community engagement

Platform for Student Ideas and opinions

URL

Hashtag: #ParticipationOpportunities #AllStudents #NationalLevel

Short description - What is it about?

In Flanders you can find some examples of (internal) digital / online platforms for students (often inspired by local governments) that try to make it as easy as possible for all students to bring up new ideas and give their opinion on new projects. A known downside is that these platforms are expensive (production and maintenance) and mostly reach already highly involved students. Most platforms connected to a PHE institution have been taken offline, but local governments often use these platforms.

Target group

- Students

Activities

- Improving opportunities for students to get involved

NUS Tackling Lad Culture

[URL](URL)

Hashtags: #Guidelines #InternationalLevel #Genderequality #Institutions

Short description - What is it about?

NUS Women's student campaigners network supports, organises and facilitates conversations on issues affecting disabled students at a local, national and international level. he network is open to all who self-define as women, including (if they wish) those with complex gender identities which include 'woman', and those who experience oppression as women. The NUS Tackling Lad Culture Hub aims to provide information about the NUS Women's campaign work on tackling Lad Culture and resources for students' unions who want to create their own local strategy to tackle Lad Culture.

Target group

- Institutions
- Student Unions

Activities

- Development of a benchmark tool to aim students' unions and institutions work together to create an effective joint strategy to tackle lad culture
- Development of a strategy guideline to tackle lad culture
- Launch of the #StandByMe consultation in April 2016
- Development of Training Modules

Principles and Guidelines to Strengthen the Social Dimensions of Higher Education in the EHEA

[URL](URL)

Hashtags: #Guidelines #InternationalLevel #InclusivityInHE #Institutions #PublicAuthorities

Short description - What is it about?

The first paneuropean document that should help countries and HEIs to work effectively on strengthening the social dimension in HE, providing a holistic perspective on how to strengthen student engagement and inclusion through main higher education missions: learning and teaching, research, 3rd mission.

Target group

- Institutions
- Public authorities
- Policy makers

Activities

- Provides Guidelines for Institutions, policy and public authorities

Case study collections in other projects

A collection of for further cases in relation to inclusive student engagement can be found through other projects where some of the InclusiPHE partners have been involved in.

Student Participation Without Borders

URL

More good practice examples with a specific focus on student engagement in higher education can be found on the website of the Student Participation Without Borders (STUPS) project

https://studentparticipation.eu/best-practices/

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Multinclude cases

[URL](#)

The Multiinclude online database provides 70 case studies on inclusive education providing readers an understanding of the: The narrative, origins and objectives of the initiative; The group(s) intended as beneficiaries; The political and socio-economic factors thatt enabled the initiative; The overall initiative design and the methods and tools used to reach the goals; How the project ensured its sustainability; Resources used in the initiative; The extent to which the initiative achieved its objectives.