

Training of the Trainers

A successful bottom-up initiative that became a forward-looking Teaching and Learning Centre for Faculty



A Sustainable and inclusive approach to Faculty Pedagogical Professional Development

Through three bottom-up sustainable and inclusive approaches we can transform your university culture so that your institution can carry on thriving as an excellent teaching and research hub.

With sustainability and inclusion as our driving force, we invite all Faculty members to take part so as to exchange, reflect on and practice best teaching practices in a discipline-specific context.

1

ONLINE PEER DISCUSSIONS

On pedagogy, technology and skills

2

PEER OBSERVATIONS

Aiming at self-reflective and self regulatory changes induced from within

3

DISCIPLINE-SPECIFIC COLLOQUIUMS

Pooling your resources together



Seminars for Faculty members

Online peer-discussions among Faculty members on current pedagogies.



Empowering students to become autonomous

With targeted skills and competencies seminars



Team-based learning at UOC

Students become accountable for the progress of their team members

Goals

Empowering excellent researchers to become excellent teachers

What constitutes an excellent teacher?
Is good teaching a flair, a natural talent?
Or is it due to extensive experience,
skills, training and expertise?

Most faculty members start their teaching career either as teaching assistants during their PhD or by taking the plunge as lecturers with little prior pedagogical training. Fortunately, current educational principles, European sustainability policies and inclusion initiatives lend themselves for a more innovative pedagogical model of learning that focuses on students' learning, student engagement and autonomy.

To start with, asynchronous, blended, online learning tools combined with current educational psychology principles can be a powerful means of changing your relationships with your students. As well as that, the Training of the Trainers initiative employs a plethora of pedagogical innovations that take into account relationship-building with our students in conjunction with technical knowledge dissemination and retention. This is achieved by training our Faculty and adopting an open culture of collaboration among Faculty members themselves and Faculty-student groups. What is more, by implementing active learning strategies and team-based learning, we can engage our students so as to take ownership of their one learning in a supportive and promising environment.

“Educational psychology can be a powerful tool for your students’ learning”

WHAT IS YOUR SECRET ELEMENT OF SUCCESS?

“Training of the Trainers @ UOC is a collective effort from a variety of specialists and experts at the University of Crete. It is not a one person show. It is about sharing your current practices, critically reflecting on others’ work, learning by trial and error, utilising adult learning principles, employing action research, facilitating new pedagogies, and scaffolding your university students while treating them as equal partners. Universities can thrive in such a flexible, sustainable and inclusive scheme of work, which has been implemented by the University of Crete since 2019.”

Kallia Katsampoxaki-Hodgetts, Training of the Trainers Coordinator, 2020-2021, University of Crete.



WHY DID UOC EMBRACE THE TRAINING OF THE TRAINERS INITIATIVE?

“Our main goal is Inclusive Education and creating equal opportunities for all UOC stakeholders, i.e. faculty, staff, students, young researchers, etc. In an attempt to prevent exclusion, we wholeheartedly support the Training of the trainers initiative so as to exchange sustainable pedagogical PD practices and hopefully fight against all kinds of inequalities in our University”.

Prof. George Kossioris, Vice rector of Academic Affairs, University of Crete.

