Enhancing Teaching-Learning Environments in Undergraduate Courses

ETL project
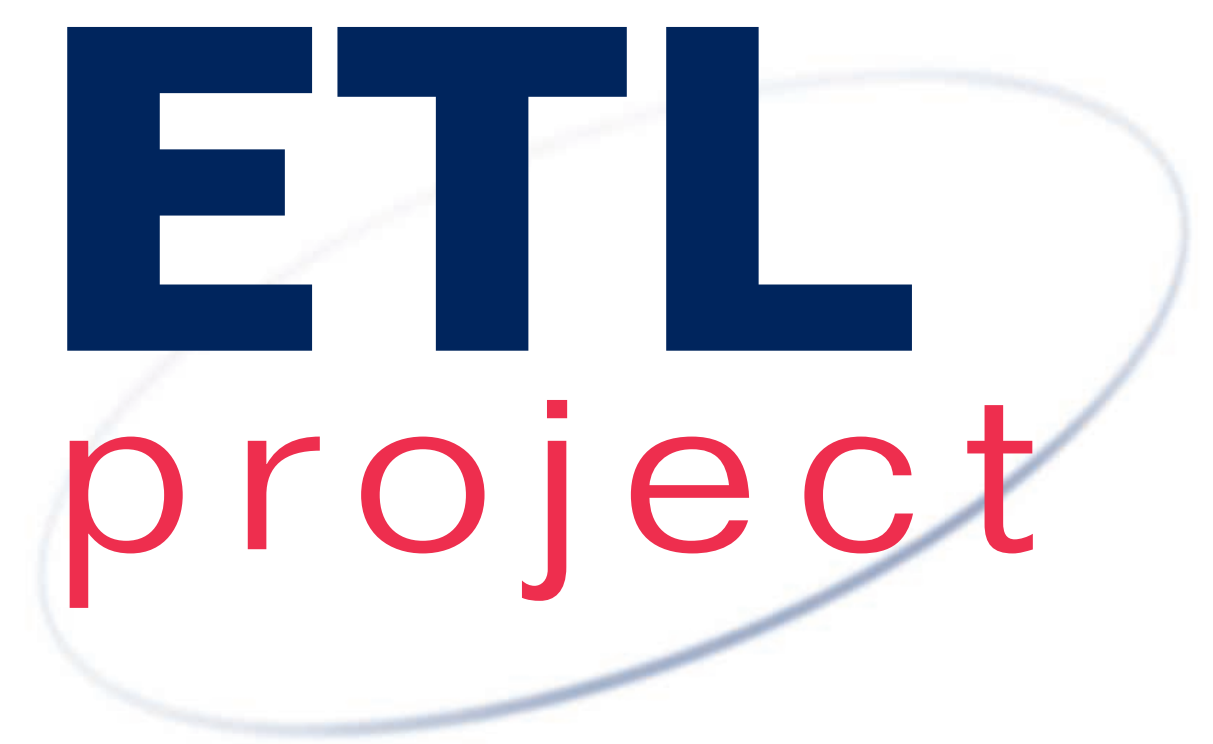
PHASE I

Conceptual Development

Development and refinement of frameworks for conceptualising teaching-learning environments and the enhancement of high-quality learning.

Key concepts:

- teaching-learning environments
- constructive alignment
- approaches to studying
- ways of thinking and practising in the subject, including threshold concepts

Literature Review

A review of the research literature on high-quality learning and teaching-learning environments in higher education.

TQA Analysis

An analysis of a sample of TQA reports on departments in five subject areas awarded 'excellent' ratings.

Follow-up Interviews

Telephone interviews with staff in a sample of the departments featuring in the analysis of TQA reports.

Instrument Development

Development of data collection instruments including interview schedules and two questionnaires:

- Learning and Studying Questionnaire
- Experiences of Teaching and Learning Questionnaire

External Inputs

Advice and support from:

- two international consultants
- a panel of subject advisers from five subject areas
- departmental partners
- user partners, e.g. LTSN subject centres

PHASE II

Data Collection and Analysis

A. baseline data

Data gathering on first year and final year course units in up to 20 participating departments in five subject areas: biology, economics, engineering, history, and media and communications.

Data gathered by questionnaires, student focus groups, interviews with staff, field notes, and course documentation.

Analysis of data and reports to participating departments.

Data Collection and Analysis

B. collaborative initiative

Agreement and development of a collaborative initiative to enhance the teaching-learning environment in each course unit.

Collection and analysis of data: questionnaires, student focus groups, interviews with staff, field notes, course documentation.

PHASE III

Outputs and Dissemination

Development of research-based tools to help higher education teachers review and enhance teaching-learning environments.

Compilation of guidelines for implementing effective pedagogical change.

Dissemination by workshops and seminars, web-accessible resources, and printed materials.

PROJECT TEAM

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T·L·R·P Teaching & Learning Research Programme

E·S·R·C ECONOMIC & SOCIAL RESEARCH COUNCIL