NEW INITIATIVES

Innovative ways of reaching the project aims

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1. Online staff-development course

2. Student Voice in African Harmonisation process in Higher Education

3. Symposium on Research and Good Practice

4. New platform & dissemination strategy
Online staff-development course

Why & What for

- Programmes and courses are collaborative undertakings
- The online course fosters the development of collaborative teamwork
- The focus of the course is to provide experience
- The outcome of the online course is linked to the work of Tuning Africa II
- Being “students” gives academics an experience of distance learning
Online staff-development course

How

360+ participants; teams of 4 – 10; interdisciplinary

8 groups of teams with an advisor

6 English-language based groups and 2 French-language based

15 - Teacher Education,
10 - Civil Engineering,
12 - Agricultural Sciences,
11 - Mechanical Engineering,
11 - Medicine &
1 - “mixed” Engineering.
Online staff-development course

Processes

- Interactive tasks mirror good practices in teaching and learning in HE

- The course provides a combination of individual work and face-to-face team meeting to reach consensus

- All team members can see the platform but only the coordinator can publish and upload documents

- All groups work to a common deadline

- By the end of block 1 many teams have already developed their own rhythm of working

Caveats
Online staff-development course

Results to date

1/ Overwhelming support of the usefulness of the course

2/ Teams have discovered real enjoyment in working together

3/ From Bloc 2 we can see teams advancing much faster

A full report has been prepared for Block 1, has been circulated among the course participants and will be sent to all the meeting participants.

Reports will be circulated after each block.
One of the common goals:
Ensuring that African higher education degrees are student-centred

How to ensure consistency with student-centred approaches?

One possible answer

Involve students in a **constructive discussion**, make sure the students’ voice is heard

Invite students to focus on the questions the project addresses

Through local & continental student discussions + sponsorship to attend meetings
Student Voice – e.g. Student Workload

Process [4 big steps]

1. Questions to explore

- What are the different kinds of activities you do for your university work? How much time do you spend on each in a typical week? How is it different during exam times?

- What types of activities would you like to have more time for? What types of activities take too much time now? Would you like to include any other types of activities? Please respond to these questions both for a typical week and for exam times (two sets of responses).

- Apart from your university work, what other demands do you have on your time in a typical week? Say what these are and roughly how much time they take.
**Student Voice** – e.g. Student Workload

**Process** [4 big steps]

1. Questions to explore

2. Local/National level
   - National-level reports

3. Continental collaboration online in subject-specific groups
   - Continental reports

4. Some group representatives attend the next meeting
Symposium on Research and Good Practice

Why & What for
- For academics (you & your colleagues)
- To share the results of pedagogical experiments & observation
- To share good practice and build together

→ Pedagogical innovation based on empirical data

How
- Through sharing research and good practice during the Symposium sessions within the meetings
- Individual or collective publications
Symposium on Research and Good Practice

**Process [6 steps]**

1. Call circulation

2. Abstract submission online 31 May

3. Selection announced 30 June

4. Confirmation; developing the full paper

5. Full paper submission 15 Sept

6. Symposium on Research and Good Practice (Tuning Africa II 3rd General Meeting) **

** Possibility to incorporate feedback received in the full paper
New platform & dissemination strategy

Full dissemination plan under development (to be presented at 3rd GM)

Elements already in place:

1/ Tuning Africa II Newsletter
   - Published and disseminated after each general meeting
   - Issues discussed + Participants’ reflections

2/ Tuning Africa Website (new!)
   http://www.tuningafrica.org

To be kept alive and growing among all of us