Teaching Improvement Initiatives in Spain

Federico Morán & Luis Delgado . SGU - MECD
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Outline

- University Strategy
- Excellence in Teaching
- Teaching Improvement Initiatives
- Teaching Assessment
- Impact
University Strategy

- Modernization Agenda of Spanish Universities related to the European Agenda for the Modernization of Universities
- Three key pillars: search for excellence in the three main missions (education, research and innovation), competitiveness and internationalization
Excellence in Teaching

- Main Goal: to increase the quality of the Spanish university system as a whole & to foster the international excellence and competitiveness of the best universities:
  - encourage the development of postgraduate courses: Master and Doctoral degrees with “Mentions of Excellence”
  - promote the international competitiveness of study courses namely at postgraduate level,
  - strengthen international cooperation in teaching, research and innovation,
  - strengthen the evaluation, certification and accreditation of teachers and study programs
Excellence in Teaching

Two main components: Excellence & Strengthening

Search for Excellence
- Institutional strategies to reach world class excellence in 3 main strategic axes:
  - Teaching Improvement & Adaptation to the EHEA
  - Scientific Improvement & Knowledge Transfer
  - International competitiveness

Institutional Strengthening
- Doctoral Schools
- Postgraduate Schools
- Attraction of talent
- Supporting services to students
- Trans-border campuses
- Public – Private Partnerships
- Technology Transfer
- Innovation
- Internationalization
Excellence in Teaching

• Actions on Institutions, Training and Personnel
  – **Institutions**: verification of degrees and accreditation of studies, mentions of excellence at Master and Doctoral levels. Institutional Grants
  – **Training**: evaluation of teaching and research, accreditation of teachers
  – **Personnel**: direct actions on students, general grants, research grants, doctoral training, apprenticeships, short stays in firms, mobility, etc..
Teaching Improvement

- All universities have to present specific proposals considering issues such as:
  - Teaching Innovation
  - Incentives to individual teachers
  - Quality control
  - Indicators
  - Increase of foreign languages (namely English) courses
  - International joint and multiple degrees
  - Transversal competences
  - International mobility of teachers
  - Attraction of excellent teachers
  - Teacher’s updating knowledge and skills
  - Rationalization and streamlining of teaching programs
  - Use of ITC and other technologies
Teaching Innovation Projects

• Use of ICT
  – Content creation for virtual learning
  – Incorporation of audiovisual resources to the learning process
  – Didactic and multimedia CMAP tools
  – Integration of web 2.0
  – Statistical packages
  – Virtual campus: elaboration and publishing in virtual teaching platforms

• Updating of teacher’s skills
  – Pedagogical and Communication Improvement
  – Transversal skills:
    • Creativity
    • Leadership
    • Citizenship
    • Critical thinking
    • Entrepreneurship
  – Knowledge Management Systems
    • Bibliographic tools, etc.
  – Assessment of learning outcomes in specific courses, i.e. engineering
Teaching Innovation Projects

• Quality
  – Involvement of firms in the practical works at the end of the Bachelor and Master degrees
  – Implementation of specific Quality Assurance systems in all the courses
  – International mobility of teachers & researchers:
    • Marie Curie Actions
    • Grants FPU (Training of University’s teachers)

• Adaptation of learning spaces
  – Flexible class rooms with mobile furniture
  – Creation of teacher – student / teacher – teacher and student – student meeting spaces all over the campus
  – Incorporation of ICT equipment into the classrooms
  – Didactical campus
    • Botanical Gardens, etc.
  – Living Labs for teaching & research
    • Aging, Aerospace, etc.
Teaching Assessment

Evaluation, certification and accreditation activities of courses and teachers managed by the Spanish Quality Agency (ANECA)

- Program of evaluation of teachers to access to the position of university professor (PEP & ACADEMIA)
- Program of evaluation of the study programs according with the requirements of the EHEA (VERIFICA)
- Program of monitoring and follow-up of the implementation and outcomes of the study programs (MONITOR)
- DOCENTIA: Support to universities for the creation of evaluation systems of their teaching staff
- AUDIT: Orientation and support to university centres in the design of internal Quality Assurance systems
- MENCIÓN: Evaluation of doctoral programs opting to a “Mention of Excellence”
Impact

- Additional university funding:
  - Teaching improvement
  - Adaptation to the EHEA
  - Research & Knowledge Transfer
  - Support to students: dormitories, accessibility, ICT
  - Interaction with firms
- New teaching and research positions
- Internationalization of teaching and research
- International attractiveness
- Raising public awareness

- Strategic clustering of universities, research institutes and businesses
- Attraction, retention and motivation of talent
- Creation of university-centred specialised knowledge ecosystems in specific knowledge domains
- Universities underpinning the competitiveness of “creative cities” and “intelligent territories”
Model of Top-level university

• High quality in teaching, giving people the necessary skills and competences for new jobs and innovation
• Quality and relevance in research, moving forward the research frontiers in relevant knowledge areas
• Hub in international networks of knowledge
• Beneficial impact on the social and economic environment, exchanging knowledge with society and business
• Magnet for international talent and knowledge-related investments
Muchas gracias por su atención!
luism.delgado@mecd.es