



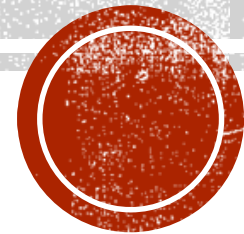
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START-IT: A COLLABORATIVE ACTIVE LEARNING APPROACH TO TEACHING SOFT AND FUTURE SKILLS IN HIGHER EDUCATION



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Start-IT mobilities:

- Porto, Portugal 2022
- Berlin, Germany 2023
- Antwerp, Belgium 2024





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Sustainable entrepreneurship focus of mobilities:

- **Porto:** sustainable tourism in the city of Porto
- **Berlin:** app-based solutions for local government and NGOs that work in the city of Berlin
- **Antwerp:** 15-Minute City





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Mobility structure:

- Ten days
- 50 travelling students
- International, multidisciplinary & diverse
- Mobile app prototype, business plan, marketing & three presentations
- Real-world problems that focus on sustainability
- NGOs and business partners
- Active, group-based & collaborative learning
- Mentors & daily meetings
- Develop soft and future skills





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Collaborative Active Learning:

- Fosters critical thinking
- Improves teamwork communication skills
- Promotes deeper understanding
- Promotes greater engagement with course materials
- Fosters higher student satisfaction
- Results in better academic performance
- Prepares students for industry
- Enhances employability





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Soft Skills:

- Communication
- Leadership
- Teamwork
- Time management
- Work ethic
- Conflict management
- Emotional intelligence

Future Skills:

- Entrepreneurship
- Creativity
- Adaptability
- Critical thinking
- Data analysis
- Problem solving
- Digital Presentation skills





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Mobility in Antwerp, Belgium:

- March 17th to March 27th 2024
- 50 students
- 12 academics





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46 students completed a survey relating to entrepreneurship:

- Quantitative (ten questions)
- Qualitative (written feedback for each question)





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Q1. Do you feel that this project promoted student involvement, making the learning experience more interesting and engaging for you?



“I agree because working with international teammates has a significantly positive impact on students in terms of communication and collaboration.”

“the project engages international students altogether, sharing responsibility, knowledge, working moral. Those factors make me think that the project is more interesting and engaging.”





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Q2. Do you feel that this project encouraged you to engage in discussions, evaluate options, and apply critical thinking skills to arrive at informed decisions?



“We had to look at our idea from different angles and consider plenty of ‘what ifs’ so in my opinion it certainly boosted our critical thinking ability.”

“We have come across many difficult situations and had to make critical choices. Some of the choices were good and some of them were bad, but in the end it made all of us think.”





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Q3. Do you feel that, by involving real-world scenarios and practical applications of knowledge, this project helped you see the relevance of what you are learning and how it can be applied in different contexts?



“It is easier and more fun to learn when you feel like you could potentially see your idea being implemented and used.”

“I think so. It is much more interesting because of the real scenarios.”





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Q4. Do you feel that this project helped you to develop problem-solving skills and the ability to apply theoretical knowledge to real-world situations?



“Like in life, a lot of thinking, googling and research was needed to finish the project, and also we encountered a lot of problems that needed to be solved.”

“Yes many of the tasks given are making us use that theoretical knowledge we got to know through our studies.”





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Q5. Do you feel that this project enhanced your communication skills by providing you with opportunities to articulate your thoughts, listen to others, and express your ideas coherently?



“Absolutely. Being a member of a team for 6-7 days, where we worked more than 8 hours every day, can definitely enhance communication skills.”

“Yes, this project has enhanced my communication skills by providing opportunities to articulate thoughts, listen to others, and express ideas coherently.”





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Q6. Do you feel that this project boosted your motivation by giving you a sense of shared responsibility and the opportunity to contribute to your team's success?



“Yes, this project has boosted my motivation by providing a sense of shared responsibility and the chance to contribute to my team's success.”

“Yes. It motivated me to get out of comfort zone.”





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Q7. Do you feel that this project helped you develop various life skills, such as leadership, teamwork, negotiation, and conflict resolution?



“Yes, I strongly believe that this project has helped me develop various life skills. Through it, I've honed my abilities in leadership, teamwork, negotiation, and conflict resolution.”

“yes, I feel like I have learnt some basics skills of leadership, negotiation, and conflict solution since I haven't learnt this for a long time.”





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Q8. Do you feel that open-ended projects are a good way for you to learn?



“The open-ended nature of this project, where our team had the autonomy to choose our application focus and decide on the implementation of our solution, was incredibly valuable. I believe that open-ended projects provide an excellent learning opportunity.”

“yes, because it gives us the chance to work on something that we find really interesting.”





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Q9. Do you feel that you learn more in a collaborative active learning environment than in a traditional classroom setting?



“Yes definitely, it felt like a real world environment rather than a classroom where we often aren't taught where we can apply the knowledge that we learn.”

“Yes, I strongly believe that I learn more in a collaborative active learning environment compared to a traditional classroom setting. The engagement and interaction within a team in such an environment facilitate deeper understanding and retention of knowledge.”





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Q10. Do you feel that this project promotes excellence in teaching and learning?



“I believe this project promotes excellence in both teaching and learning. It encourages a high standard of work and fosters a dynamic environment where continuous improvement is emphasized.”

“Absolutely. Almost every lecturer we asked for opinion or feedback was critical, but also gave us tips and advice on how to move forward.”





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