Abstracts

Creative Expression in Professional Development

Chad Hoggan, Michelle Bartlet

Educational theorists have long touted the developmental benefits of engaging in creative endeavors, such as photography, creative writing, and so forth, yet few professional development programs incorporate creative expression into their curricula. This article briefly reviews the work of Fromm, Marcuse, Jung, and Heron to explore possible justifications and explanations of the developmental and organizational benefits that are possible from creative expression. This article argues that a unifying premise of these theorists is that creative expression promotes autonomy. It concludes by providing an example of how a pedagogy utilizing creative expression can meet immediate learning objectives in addition to the longer term outcome of increased autonomy and discusses how such pedagogies can be incorporated into professional development programs.

Keywords: professional development; creative expression; autonomy; arts; organizational learning.

Didactic organisation. An explorative study

Martino Andreani, Matteo Turri, Cristina Zaggia, Giuseppina Le Rose

OECD surveys show that students in Italy take longer to complete their higher education qualifications, access studies at a later stage, and have a high drop-out rate.

This paper outlines the main results of a study funded by ANVUR that involved 40 programme study coordinators from different countries (Italy, Switzerland and the UK).The programmes of study involved in the research concerned three fields: philosophy, management and chemistry.

Each programme coordinator was interviewed about the organisation; the teaching, learning and assessment methods; and the quality assurance system of the respective undergraduate degrees.

Compared with the other countries studied, and recognising the specificities of each discipline, the findings emphasise three critical aspects concerning the Italian way of organising, providing and evaluating the study programmes: the control of the students career; the learning assessment and the professional development of the teaching staff.

Keywords: guidance; teaching, learning and assessment methods; quality assurance.

The evaluation of higher education in learning perspective: developments and students' participation

Luisa Pandolfi

The paper aims to explore the development of the main institutional and scientific background about the quality assurance and the evaluation of higher education. This development leads to the need to implement multidimensional and procedural perspectives, as highlighted by the wider literature framework and by many evidence based research. Particularly, this article aims to identify new possible forms, models and tools for teaching evaluation that can integrated tools currently in use, in order to make students more active protagonists and, at the same time, in order to promote an improvement of the teaching practices and of the quality of the program of study. In this regard, a survey realized at the University of Sassari will be presented.

Keywords: evaluation; students; participation; higher education.

Soft skills development. *Boot camp for the job*: an experience carried out by the Region of Veneto

Cristina Zaggia, Anna Serbati

The paper analyses the scientific literature, the main national and international classification of the soft skills and the importance of their awareness. It presents an experience carried out by the Region of Veneto in partnership with Italia Lavoro, now called Anpal Servizi, concerning an innovative methodology of development of the soft skills. It consists in physical and narrative exercises during which young people show their skills to those organizations interested in identifying talented youth to hire.

The paper presents the objectives, the methodology and some results reached by the experience *Boot camp for the job* 2016, emphasizing the fact that it has been recognised as a European good practice in terms of efficiency, innovation, transferability and reproducibility.

Keywords: soft skills; awareness; employability; bootcamp.