Why we need evidence-based practices in education ... and why we should develop them together with teachers

TOBIAS LEY TALLINN UNIVERSITY, ESTONIA 20.05.2019



- Introducing innovations in schools

 evidence-based or gut feeling?
- 2. The Innovation Laboratory
- 3. How we implement the models in cooperation with schools



WHAT MAKES A GOOD EDUCATIONAL INNOVATION?

- A change that leads to new practices
- Positive impact on stakeholders (students, teachers, school leaders, researchers, society)
- Evidence-based
- Sustainable change
- Scalable change



Examples: Student-centered Learning



<u>Robots in</u> <u>Mathematics</u>



<u>Mobile Outdoor</u> <u>Learning</u>



Investment into ICT in Schools?

"... success in initiating change does not guarantee that **such changes can be sustained** over time"

Technology and Open Educational Resources as opportunities to reshape EU education , Communication of the European Commission, 2011



What then ?





The linear model of knowledge transmission





Or maybe gut feeling?

Teachers develop **expertise** and **professional practices**

Develop **automatic reaction patterns** to frequently appearing situations, e.g. how a lesson is started, evaluate homework, asking questions

This allows

- Decision Making in complex, dynamic and unpredictable situations (e.g. the classroom)
- **Improvisation** and being more **responsive** and **adaptive** in their teaching to changing circumstances

Dual process theories of decision making (rational vs. intuitive)



Or maybe gut feeling?

- Over 90% of teachers believe students should be taught according to students' individual learning style
- There is no coherent scientific evidence that supports such claims
- Stronger effects on student learning can be achieved by other means (e.g. more effective questioning, feedback and scaffolding)
- Teacher collected evidence often is biased (we all like to **confirm our assumptions**)





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Or maybe gut feeling?

Also, scientific evidence often ...

- is hard to understand
- comes too late
- does not take into account the special circumstances of the classroom





LIVING LABS ARE COMMON CONTEXTS THAT ALLOW ...



- Practice-based Educational Research
 - Studying the effects of new pedagogical methods
- Teacher Training
 - Professional learning through "boundary crossing" and "teacher-led research"
- Innovation Adoption
 - Incubators for leading to sustainable change in Schools



Innovation Laboratory

An approach to integrate educational research and teacher training



- Long-term Teacher
 Training (6-12 months)
- Implementation of new teaching practice
- Action research in their own classroom
- Reflection on student learning





Important Components

- Co-creating lesson plans and materials
- Implementing in own classroom



- Inquiry tools and processes (TISL)
- Educational Technology
- Psychology of Student Learning



Does teacher co-creation lead to higher adoption?





Work with Katrin Poom-Valickis, Maria Rodriguez



Motivation, self-efficacy, ownership and intended adoption



Work with Milena Sarmiento, Maarja Hallik, Janika Leoste, Katrin Poom-Valickis

Co-Creation & Knowledge Appropriation

Co-Creation as a form of Knowledge Appropriation





Qualitative Evidence for Social Practices supporting the program

Evidence for Knowledge Maturation especially sharing and co-creation

• *Working together with other math teachers, supporting each other, was one the main values of the program*"

Strong evidence for scaffolding

• *"We were two of us from our schools and had a chance to discuss the challenges, but we also communicated with other program participants to ask advice*

Some evidence for Knowledge Appropriation

- Several teachers integrated elements of the program into their teaching



Work with Kairit Tammets, Janika Leoste

Social practices seem more strongly related to intended adoption than individual practices



A TALLINN UNIVERSITY School of Educational Sciences Especially important: Sharing, Co-creating, Seeking Help

Work with Milena Sarmiento, Janika Leoste

Implementation Models at Tallinn University







EDULAB

Haridusuuenduse koosloome Eesti koolidega

Koosloomel põhinevad meetodid haridusuuringute ja praktika sidumiseks Õpianalüütika lahendused õppeprotsessi jälgimiseks ja analüüsimiseks

A TALLINN UNIVERSITY School of Educational Sciences https://edulabs.ee

4 EDULAB Cases for STEM Learning Science Technology, Engineering and Math

- Robomathematics
- Inquiry Learning outside the Classroom
- Smart Sensors for STEM
- Digital Learning Resources in Math



With large involvement so far...

- 100+ Estonian schools
- 300+ teachers
- 3000+ students





Robomathematics Teacher Community Digital Learning Resources



Work with Luis Pablo Prieto, Maria Rodriguez, Kairit Tammets, Mart Laanpere etc.

CEITER Team

- 2 Professors
- 5 Post-doctoral Researchers
- 14 PhD Students & Junior Researchers
- 4 Administrative Staff
 (Research Coordination, Marketing, Training Coordination, Ethics & Data)





http://ceiter.tlu.ee

Future School Program *Tulevikukool*

Whole School Approach to School

Development





Work with Eve Eisenschmidt, Kairit Tammets

Tobias Ley Professor for Learning Analytics and Educational Innovation CEITER Project Tallinn University, Estonia http://ceiter.tlu.ee



