



Training “Problem based learning (PBL) approaches across study programs” (WP 4)

June 3-4, 2019, Copenhagen, Denmark

ERASMUS+ MILETUS - Event report

Date: 20-Jun-19

Event description

- Training “Problem based learning (PBL) approaches across study programs” (WP 4)
- Place: Copenhagen, Denmark
- Date: June 3-4, 2019
- Number of participants: 28 (18 females and 10 males).

The Problem-Based (PBL) approach which provides the didactic framework for teaching and learning in higher education, has been adopted as the didactic methodology for the MILETUS virtual and blended mobility programmes. In order to remedy some deficiencies in the particular abilities of teachers to supervise interdisciplinary student projects, the PBL training for senior teachers was designed and implemented.

As an important instrument for achieving the project objectivities, the PBL training was intended to create the necessary theoretical frameworks for the supervision of the project-oriented students' mobility programs also for future mobility programmes at the partner universities. The Aalborg University (AAU), the leading university in Europe applying the PBL approach in teaching methodology, has gladly organized and conducted the PBL training for the academic staff of the project partner universities.

Based on the findings, practices and experiences gained in the PBL training and the kindly offered materials for facilitating the integration of the PBL methodology into university teaching programs, the recommendations at institutional and ministerial level for the introduction of the PBL approach into current study programmes are expected in the near future.

The PBL training took place from 3 to 4 June 2019 on the AAU Campus Site in Copenhagen. The Department of Materials and Production of the AAU was pleased to organize this training. The focus of the training was the methodological approach to the conception and supervision of learning programmes for students at Bachelor, Master and PhD level with a special focus on the supervision of interdisciplinary and intercultural student groups. The senior lecturers of the different faculties of each partner university participated in the PBL training; priority has been given to university teachers from different faculties who are directly involved in the MILETUS project mobility programmes as well as university teachers who are involved in other student mobility programmes and are able to integrate the PBL approach into their current teaching methods and practices for student mobility programmes at the partner HEIs, with the aim of disseminating the MILETUS project practices among the academics of the partner universities.





The first day of the PBL training (**Day 1, June 03, 2019**) began with the topic of *how to organize and structure teaching using the PBL approach* as a learning platform. In this context, the PBL principles and processes were presented for understanding the PBL methodology. The *critical thinking* within the PBL approach and the transformation of teaching classes within the PBL methodology was the next topic. A critical thinking as a core element of any learning organization is a very contradictory element of the PBL approach. The ways of understanding critical thinking in the PBL context were presented and discussed among the participants. The subsequent lecture was aimed at the *organisation of the teamwork within the PBL learning structure*; a special focus was on the subject area humanities for students at Bachelor level. Among other aspects, the lecture conveyed an understanding of the difference between subject- and problem-oriented learning; the PBL teaching model and the teaching structure of the AAU Faculty of Communication and Digital Media were presented and discussed with a view to the PBL approach in the humanities for students at Bachelor level.

The aim of the following lecture was to present the perspective on the *PBL approach in the natural sciences for students at Master level*. This lecture was given by the AAU Department of Materials and Production and concluded with the teamwork of the participants as an example of how to prepare mini-projects. All participants were divided into small groups of 4-5 participants and received a plastic waste topic, one of the most relevant research focuses of recent years. The participants were trained to formulate the initial problem, find the bottlenecks and identify the scope of the problem, analyse the problem, find the solution and finally present their mini-projects. In this way, the participants, representing different faculties and research fields, trained the skills necessary for working in the interdisciplinary, interinstitutional and international research groups, as was the case for the students participating in the MILETUS mobility program.

The **second day** of the PBL training (**Day 2, June 04, 2019**) started with the presentation of mini-projects of the participants and a summary discussion on the methods and practices applied in the preparation of the mini-projects. The following topic was the *means of communication* from the perspective of the PBL approach by supervision student's mobility programs. In this way, the participants in small groups discussed challenges and experiences of establishing communication and formation of community in the student's groups. The subsequent presentation of the *PBL approach in an online and international perspective* by the AAU Department for Communication and Psychology concluded this discussion by introducing the AAU practices for its international online programmes.

The PBL training ended with the concluding discussion of all participants on the lessons learned from the PBL training and summarizing recommendations for the implementation of the PBL approach in virtual/blended mobility and study programmes.

We would like to thank the host university for the very useful training materials and all participants for their time and active interaction during the training.



Photographs from the event

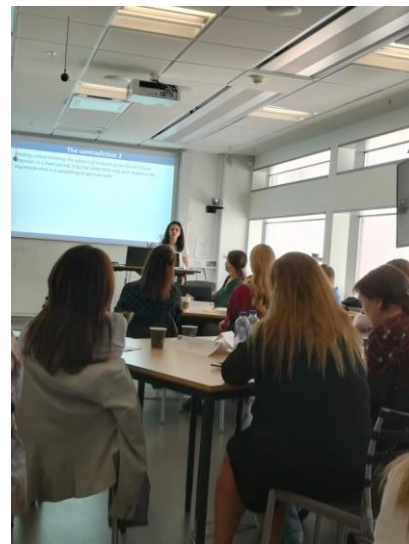
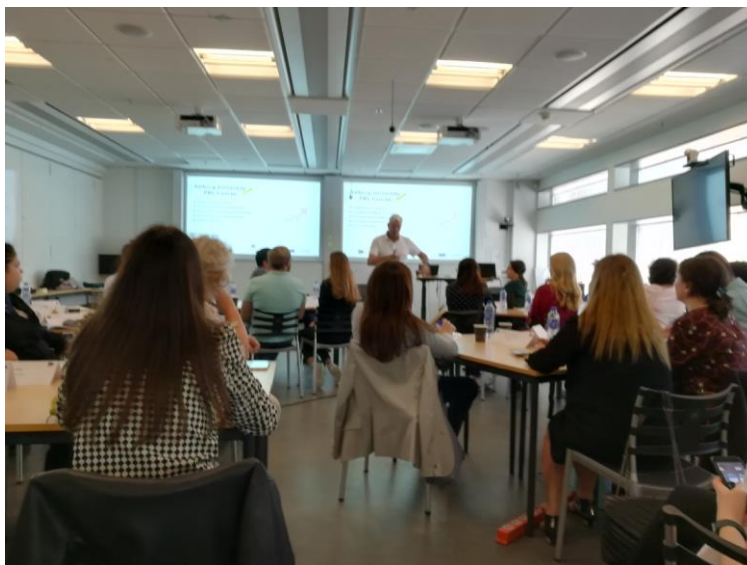


Image 1-4. PBL training: lectures and workshops (first day of the training)



Image 5-8. PBL training; Presentation of mini-projects (second day of the training)



Image 9. Participants of the MILETUS PBL training in Copenhagen (03-04 June 2019).

List of Obligatory Annexes:

- Agenda of the Event
- Attendance List of participants
- Presentations from the event