

## Workshop 5

### Session's theme: Student participation in the community

**Paper number:** 36

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**Presenters' Organisation:** National Union of University Students in Finland

**Session's chair:** To be announced later.

### Session title: Supporting student engagement through teaching

#### Abstract:

How do students become engaged in their studies? How do you maintain and cherish the enthusiasm of a new student throughout his or her academic career? Studies have shown that as much as two thirds of a student's learning is achieved during the first two years of study. A student's experiences during his or her first year also have a strong influence on his or her subsequent studying. (Lähteenoja, 2010.)

What we concluded is that we can influence the students' integration into the community as well as increase their engagement in their studies by supporting a shift from a degree- and performance-centred, to a student- and competence-centred learning culture and philosophy. Student-centred learning (SCL), is a method of learning or teaching that puts the learner at the centre. A Student-centred culture brings the students and the staff closer to each other, improves the students' study abilities through communality and support, improves the learning outcomes and enhances the students' general working-life skills. (Attard, A., Di Iorio, E., Geven, K. & Santa, R. 2010.)

Learning and teaching are major points of agendas for SYL, the National Union of University Students in Finland. As a part of the work on improving smooth progress of studies, SYL has coordinated the Kyky (ability) -project since 2009. The goal of the Kyky-project is to improve the students ability to study and the communality of university students in co-operation with universities and university student unions.

The goal of the workshop is to join together to look for answers as how to support the students in becoming engaged in their studies through teaching. Attard, A., Di Iorio, E., Geven, K. & Santa, R. (2010a). Student-centred learning. An insight into theory and practice. Bucharest: Education International, The European Student's Union. Lähteenoja, S. (2010). Uusien opiskelijoiden integroituminen yliopistoon. Sosiaalipsykologinen näkökulma. The University of Helsinki.