

Introduction

RED-U (The Spanish network of University Teaching) is a formal and independent association developing its activities since the year 2000. Its main purpose is to develop the quality of university teaching through both disseminating innovations and promoting professional exchanges and debates on key issues of the HE Spanish system.

The network membership includes universities, individuals and groups, involved in promoting education in Higher Education.

RED-U is financially sustained by its membership (26 public universities, - 50% of the public ones- 26 individuals and 1 research group, *Special interest group*), with an annual budget of 36.000€ on average. Other means for sustaining our activities are the registration fees in our meetings with special rates for delegates from membership universities and individuals.

The RED-U core activities

The RED-U core activities are the following: to promote two annual meetings, financing an online journal, the website and organizing various activities such as newsletters and special interest groups.

In 2012 we launched the second issue of a competitive grant (12.000€) for generating a network project aiming both at the improvement of some key issues on innovation or teaching or illuminating some of them. Complementary to the seminars and symposia, the grant's aim is fostering networking on Teaching Innovation/Training through reflection based on a research process.

The RED-U Journal

RED-U sustains a journal focused on learning, teaching and academic development in Higher Education. It is an on-line journal, with free worldwide access. It has four issues per year. Its influence is growing among Spanish academics interested in improving teaching & learning, and among academic developers. It exerts a relevant impact on academics and developers in Latin America universities.

The website

The www.red-u.org hosts all the historical material developed through our activities. It is a free-access website.

Various activities

Besides the former, RED-U develops different complementary activities as co-publishing key materials, as the most relevant outcomes from our meetings. Those

materials can be co-edited either in a partnership with some publisher, or with some interested university.

The annual meetings

In 2013 one annual meeting will be held. It will focus in discussing a common frame aiming at to shape a RED-U model in TT in HE in Spain. The expected outcome will be a selection of a basic set of principles that all the university members could accept.

New presidency

Since the last February, Joan Rué (Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona) had been replaced by Amparo Fernández from Universidad Politécnica de Valencia. The new representative in ICED is Javier Paricio, from the Universidad de Zaragoza.

Our difficulties

Three main issues render our activities difficult. The most important is the lack of political vision about the benefits of improving T&L in HE, according to the current governmental policies. As a consequence of it, many academics and universities do not consider the issues we deal with as a priority. The second is the current policy of economical cuts for HE projects, which makes our meetings less participative than before (only two years ago). The third one is cultural in its nature. Despite some important progress, the Spanish current HE culture is officially research and academic oriented.