‘Towards a sense of belonging in an inclusive learning environment’

#IBELONG

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#IBelong aims at improving the experiences and outcomes of students from diverse backgrounds through creating more inclusive learning environments in higher education.
Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership

- KA2 - Cooperation for Innovation and the Exchange of Good Practices
- KA203 - Strategic Partnerships for higher education.

Partners
- Erasmus University Rotterdam (coordinator), the Netherlands
- Expertise Center for Diversity Policy, the Netherlands
- University of Osnabrueck, Germany
- University of Porto, Portugal
- Edge Hill University, England
- Knowledge Innovation Centre (KIC), Malta
Sense of belonging

(e.g., Baumeister & Leary, 1995; Baumeister, Twenge, & Nuss, 2002; Deci & Ryan, 2000; Walton & Cohen, 2007)
Programme of interventions

Three pillars of interventions towards a sense of belonging:

► Dialogue Days
► Team Teacher Reflections
► Student Community Mentoring
Dialogue Days

- Staff and first-year students
- Diversity and belonging
- Two dialogue days in first academic year:
  - Diversity and transition into higher education;
  - Diversity and success in higher education
Dialogue Days – Activities

- Identity (students, staff)
- Academic journey (staff)
- Expectations (BA-1 students)
- Experiences (BA-2 students > mentors)
- Support
Team teacher reflection (TTR)

- Learning to teach inclusively
- Staff teams
- Theory and practice
  - Diversity and inclusion
  - Colour blind vs colour brave
  - Inclusive excellence
TTR – Activities

- Concepts diversity, inclusion, exclusion
- Identity
- Listening on three levels
- Forum theater
- Powerwalk
Community mentoring (CM)

- Students as community builders

- Student-peer mentoring
  - Mentor training (including certificate)
  - Matching mentor-mentee
  - Learning communities

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Kick-off mentoring workshop
October 21

October  
November
December
January
February
March
April
May
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- **November**
  - MENTORING MEETING 1
    - get to know
    - goal setting

- **December**
  - MENTORING MEETING 2
    - biography
    - resources

- **January**
  - MENTORING MEETING 3
    - intervisio

- **February**
  - MENTORING MEETING 4
    - reflection
    - summary

- **April**

- **May**
  - Dialogue Day 2
CM – Activities

► Get to know each other
   Mentor-mentee relationship

► What’s in a name?
   Aspects of diversity: How are we different, how are we alike?

► Concepts
   Diversity, equality/ equity, resilience, identity

► Tree of strengths
   Identity resources

► Intervision
Project overview - In sum
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More information:
ibelong.eu

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