

YES, THEY ARE ALL PLAGIARISING, BUT WHAT CAN BE DONE TO STOP IT?

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Abstract:

This paper supports a workshop about strategies for discouraging student plagiarism and academic dishonesty. The session will draw on examples of good practice revealed in the course of recent research and encourage participants to contribute their own experiences and ideas.

The author has witnessed diverse and interesting reactions to the revelation that she is involved in a project about plagiarism. Most researchers in education believe this is indeed a serious problem and something needs to be done. As the title of this paper implies, several respondents have expressed despair about what could or should be done about it. However a few otherwise well informed European educationalists have been genuinely at a loss to know why the project is needed and asked what is meant by the term plagiarism. Such anecdotes help to explain why the project *Impact of Policies for Plagiarism in Higher Education Across Europe* (IPPHEAE) was considered important enough to be funded by the European Union.

The three-year project is now in the final year of operation and the first results are due for dissemination in June 2013. The research includes a very wide ranging survey across the 27 EU countries, but also aims to document some interventions and case studies. The focus of the research is to explore policies in HEIs across EU countries for addressing student plagiarism at bachelor and master's level, to determine how consistently a learning community recognises the institutional policies and to capture some measure of how effective they are.

The workshop supports a project objective to share examples of good practice and success stories. But additionally the results from this session will contribute to the body of knowledge already amassed from the IPPHEAE project research, bringing together additional ideas and experiences from interested participants, many of whom will be actively researching into aspects of academic integrity.

Key words: Plagiarism, academic Integrity, Higher Education, prevention of plagiarism, IPPHEAE project

Workshop format—Discouraging plagiarism

The workshop will be very largely interactive and participative.

Main topics:

- Presentation of some IPPHEAE project findings: Worst cases—best cases, known unknowns and unknown unknowns;
- Exploring and unpacking some examples of good practice;
- Deciding where to begin in countries and higher education institutions where:
 - No policies and procedures for plagiarism and academic dishonesty are being implemented at present;
 - There is no appreciation of the scale and nature of student plagiarism;
 - There is a culture of academic autonomy;
 - Staff development is unheard of;

- Whistle-blowers on plagiarism are seen as undesirables;
- Plagiarism prevention or avoidance is not understood.
- Summarising recommendations for developing an EU-wide approach to excellence in academic integrity.

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