

Evaluation from CA 15221 Training School European University of Tirana, September 2018

At the close of the Training School held in the European University of Tirana, September 2018, as part of COST Action 15221: *Advancing effective institutional models towards cohesive teaching, learning, research and writing development*, participants were asked for feedback about the experience. This report is a synthesis of the responses recorded.

The Training School facilitators were Professor Jessie Moore and Dr Peter Musaeus. The Training School host was Erika Melonashi.

What was most valuable aspect of the Training School?

Participants were very positive about the training school experience. Specifically, participants noted as valuable:

- learning new approaches and processes with regards gathering and analysing qualitative data
- meeting and networking with others - the exchange of experiences with people from across Europe who have different backgrounds and approaches to research
- the opportunity for collaborative learning and knowledge exchange
- learning more about the Action
- the insights offered by the facilitators especially given their different research traditions and disciplines.

How did this Training School contribute to your own research and working interests?

In answer to this question participants remarked that they intended to use what they had learned in their doctoral research, and in work with staff.

They commented that the week had given them new skills, new ways of seeing and researching, and given the diversity of the group, new perspectives on research. It had introduced them to new bodies of knowledge as well as helping them to consolidate previous learning.

They also remarked that they found the training school confidence boosting and motivating. In addition they recognised the value of collaborative approaches to tasks and they felt the connections that they made could potentially lead to further collaboration in the future.

What would you like to learn more about?

Participants expressed an interest in expanding their knowledge of questionnaire design, quantitative data analysis (including introduction to statistics and related software e.g. SPSS), more about the specifics and the outputs of the Action, and more on collaborative research.

How effectively did the Training School accomplish the goals that had been announced?

Participants rated the achievement of the training school goals from 'reasonably useful' to 'very well!' / 'in a very effective way'. They noted that it would have been good if there had been more time to practise the approaches being explored, and if more contextual information (specifically about the Action) was shared in advance of the training school.

Is there anything else you would like to share?

While a couple of participants would have liked more focus on questionnaires, the majority of participants noted positive remarks and gratitude in this section, including the following comments:

- that they would like to have learned more about questionnaires
- that the training school was a 'wonderful experience' not least because it was held in Tirana
- that the participants and the facilitators made the training school 'very useful, interesting ... [and] a great opportunity for networking within a very harmonious learning environment'
- that the provision of financially supported training schools, as part of COST Actions, gives colleagues a fantastic opportunity to meet, share and learn
- that it is inspiring, and essential, how COST Actions contribute more broadly to equality of opportunity across Europe especially for partners from ITCs and NNCs
- that they would welcome more opportunities to attend further training schools
- "Thank you!"

November, 2018