

The Grade Predictor Trial across Europe-Synopsis

Background

The aim of the trial was to implement the Grade Predictor Tool in partner countries. It would be implemented with students who were making decisions about their future subject choice or were at risk of drop out and needed help/support in their current study.

As part of the trial the partners were also asked to identify a placebo group and to use this as a guide in future years in relation to the impact that the Grade Predictor tool could make in their institutions.

Overall Summary of the Trial of the Tool

The implementation of a Grade Predictor tool was a challenge. Each partner needed their own tool for their own country/institution. The following statements can be made from the trials.

- Xabec felt that the use of the tool combined with their other work give significant benefits.
- The tool in Xabec was trialled with students including adults and was equally effective.
- In GRETB the outcomes from Colaiste Bhaile Chlair were encouraging in a school with its first cohort of leavers.
- The trial at Sataedu showed figures below national averages and interventions having an impact.
- Findings from Zlinsky kraj were very significant. The range of schools and courses showed that the tool can be used in a number of settings. Teachers were very enthusiastic.
- All institutions reported dropout and unemployment figures below the national averages usually significantly below.

Overall Summary of the Trial in comparison to Placebo Groups

- In Xabec evidence points towards the Grade Predictor tool having an impact on dropout in the institution.
- In GRETB the tool identified those who would benefit from other courses and other methods of learning.
- In Sataedu the trial identified those who needed interventions and had a small impact on course changes.
- In Zlinsky kraj the tool had a significant impact on dropout and identified students in need of interventions.

Conclusions

The use of the tool aimed to have the following impacts:

- Improved training and quality of teaching
- Impact on dropout and non completion of courses
- Young people embarking on non traditional courses
- Students stretching themselves through the support of good guidance
- A curriculum better suited to the school cohort.
- Better decision making on the choice between general education and vocational courses.

The trial impacted on most of these as evidenced by a number of the outcomes for students and the placebo activity. Whilst the curriculum had not changed there was evidence of students entering other courses within their institution or provided by another which they were better suited to.

Partnership Impact

The following are the measures which the partnership judges its progress against:

- Transfer of Innovation - are the products transferred trialed and produced genuinely good practice?

These products are genuinely good practice. There are significant benefits to using a grade predictor tool as evidenced through the trials and the placebo work.

- Transnationality - the success of transnational working and the effectiveness of partners' contributions.

All partners have successfully implemented a trial in a range of settings.

- Partnership - the overall management and administration of partnership working.

This partnership is working well towards its intellectual outputs as a whole.

- Dissemination - whether partners have reached a wide audience;

There is evidence in a number of countries of a wide audience being reached.

- Valorisation - whether partnerships have achieved multiplier effects through mainstreaming activity.

The evidence particularly in Xabec and Zlinsky kraj is compelling for other education providers.

- Impact- what difference has use of the tool made to students. Has drop out been affected? Have students achieved well? What are their destinations?

The trial can be positive on this. The evidence particularly in Xabec and Zlinsky kraj is compelling. There is good evidence in at least one GRETB school of the impact that can be made whilst in Sataedu the gains seem small but worthwhile.

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NB The full evaluation of the Grade predictor trial is available here:

<https://schoolimprovementpartnershipproject.com/impact/>