



CaST State of the Art Review

The CaST state of the art review, explores the concept of Engaged Learning, and the development of this pedagogy globally, with a specific focus on each of the CaST Partner Countries of Belgium, Finland, Germany, Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom. We review the literature on Engaged Learning and include an anthology of the national perspectives on Engaged Learning of the six European countries with examples.

While drivers of Engaged Learning vary across the nations, there is renewed global impetus in the “third mission” and social responsibility across higher education. The 28 illustrative examples demonstrate that Engaged Learning initiatives vary in structure and approach and tackle an array of societal challenges. While different mechanisms of engagement and delivery have evolved due to different internal and external pressures, the premise of mutual benefit where students gain a broader appreciation of their discipline while helping a community meet an identified need, is very much the basis of the Engaged Learning construct. The benefits of the Engaged Learning approach are well documented and similar across the different initiatives in each of the partner countries. In most cases the students tackled local challenges, but the impact of Engaged Learning may be received in distant communities. There is a lack of formal national networks for this pedagogy, and in many countries, Engaged Learning has yet to become embedded across curricula.