



63rd Annual AAACE Conference!  
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"Adult Educators: Making a Difference!"

**Commission on International Adult Education Pre-conference  
(November 2 – 4)**

**FIRST STEP OF ITALIAN NATIONAL RESEARCH ON TEACHING AND  
LEARNING METHODS IN HIGHER EDUCATION**

Fedeli, M.<sup>1</sup>, Frison, D.<sup>2</sup> & Coryell, E.J.<sup>3</sup>

*ABSTRACT:* The present paper aims to describe the first phase (8 months) of an Italian research unit who took part in a more extensive three year project that endeavored to *design innovative programs for higher education, to promote personalized learning, to build on job competencies, to value talents, to create new work-opportunities, and to provide positive strategies in higher education to support young adults during their employment emergency as a response to socio-economic crisis and as a citizenship action.* In response, a consortium of universities and researchers, called Emp&Co was created that involves six Italian Universities (Padova, Firenze, Siena, Napoli, Molise, Roma Sapienza) and Dr. Monica Fedeli from the University of Padova as the Principal Investigator. Dr. Fedeli's research group is focusing on the innovation of teaching and learning methods and promotion of personalized programs in order to modernize university didactics, to encourage the university-business dialogue, and to promote employability. In the first phase of the project, a literature review was conducted and an analysis of student evaluation questionnaires from 8 Italian, 2 American, 5 European, 1 Canadian, and 1 African University was completed to compare and learn from the different ways in which courses are evaluated by students in the different academic contexts. The goal at the end of the first year is the creation of a questionnaire template focused on teaching and learning methods, so that we may gain a better understanding of student perspectives in our country. Additionally, we hope to implement strategies that will improve university didactics as requested by all European Union declarations.

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## **THE UNIVERSITY-BUSINESS COOPERATION IN THE EUROPEAN CONTEXT: AN ITALIAN EXPERIENCE WITH MASTER'S DEGREE STUDENTS, MANAGERS, AND INSTRUCTORS**

Frison, D.<sup>4</sup> & Serbati, A.<sup>5</sup>

*ABSTRACT:* In the European context the present *Europe 2020 Strategy* has still been urging the European Union Countries to strengthen *University-Business Cooperation* and the so called *Knowledge Triangle*, which considers Education, Research and Business/Innovation strongly linked together. The documents produced by the European Commission about it, highlight the evidence of the relation between Research and Innovation but also the great cultural gap existing between Education, on one side, and Research and Innovation on the other side (Commission of the European Communities, 2011). This contribution presents a University-Business Cooperation experience placed at Padova University: PARIMUN Project (Active Partnership of Research between University and Business), which supports experiences of dialogue between humanities and, particularly, educational fields and business organizations. The paper explains the steps of research and the results of the interviews which have been made by tutors working for companies and instructors involved in 18 projects of intervention-research managed by graduating master's degree students.

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