



Special Interest Group: Impact Learning

Meeting #3: Impact Learning according to students

1. Mees Deknatel - student Placemaking



What is Placemaking?

Placemaking is a **people-centred approach** when **creating public spaces**, that takes into account the **local community** before making changes in an area. A UvA course that focuses on UvA buildings and surrounding public spaces.

Input from students is very important, working in different groups with various academic backgrounds.

Why choose Placemaking?

- You **put knowledge into practice**, as it is less theoretical than regular classes;
- No barriers and there is room to be **creative**.

What was your impact?

- A small impact, not directly visible to outsiders but;
- Impact on myself! Achievements without experience gives me more **confidence**.

Advice for teachers

Any course could have some Impact Learning components and practical aspects.

2. Moataz Rageb - Student Impact Centre



What is the Student Impact Centre's goal?

Inspiring and supporting students who are trying to **tackle social issues with new initiatives**.

How?

- Finding a **network** and **workspaces** for these students by using the network of the organisation;
- **Financing initiatives** that are free to (high school) students, but are not free of charge to organise;
- The main focus lately has been **equality** and narrowing the **education gap** in society → other subjects as well (e.g. sustainability), as long as it has a **social impact**;
- Important is **accessibility** for everyone.

3. Youssra El Ballaj – student Diversity Talks & founder Studie Hub



Diversity Talks is a student organisation (by and for students). One of the projects is the Studie Hub: a **free tutoring organisation** in Amsterdam for high school students by Bachelor's/Master's students.

- *Why?* Youssra wanted to make an impact on **equality** and help/motivate students;
- *Success:* Studie Hub started with one hub and now has a second hub;
- There is also a follow-up project for making the **transition from high school to university** easier & providing personal guidance;
- Some students receive **credits for volunteering**, depending on the course (more integrated with the education).

Lessons learned: You learn most from talking to people (students) and there is no such thing as a one-size-fits-all solution.

Advice for teachers: **Talk to your students more**, listen to their ideas/perspectives and try out new things.

4. Rosanne van Wieringen - Design Thinking



A useful method for Impact Learning where **students tackle real-life problems** with creative solution thinking.

Goal: How to **translate academic knowledge into something more practical** in a broader context, including the audience.

Why?

- Try to make an impact;
- **Questions with urgency in need of solutions**.

How?

- Students need to find and contact the group(s) involved related to the problem.

Requirements students:

- **Involvement** and **commitment**.

Lessons learned by the teachers:

- Students become professionals and more serious by this experience;
- Improve the connection between work field and students, make them part of the whole process;
- Give students more **freedom to experiment** when implementing Impact Learning in courses;
- Students learn a lot from education where they put academic knowledge into practice, trying to make an impact.