

# Inter-disciplinary Trans-national teaching: Dream or Nightmare?

Rosemary Borup

**ideate:**

University of Nova Gorica  
Staffordshire University  
University of Turku  
Vilnius Business College  
D-Labs d.o.o.  
ideate.me



Lifelong  
Learning  
Programme



# The IDEATE project partners:



Turun yliopisto  
University of Turku



D-Labs

4 Universities plus one Company partner  
Slovenia, UK, Lithuania, Finland

**ideate:**

University of Nova Gorica  
Staffordshire University  
University of Turku

Vilnius Business College  
D-Labs d.o.o.  
ideate.me



# What EU priorities?

1. Youth un-employment across the EU
2. Modernisation of HE Pedagogy
3. Linking Higher Education to Industry
4. Cultural Awareness between member states



University of Nova Gorica  
Staffordshire University  
University of Turku

Vilnius Business College  
D-Labs d.o.o.  
ideate.me



# The “Dream”:

1. **Train** academics and students to become engaged in developing **entrepreneurial** behaviours,
2. **Develop** university curricula that facilitates inter-disciplinary study,
3. **Deliver** an inter-disciplinary, trans-national intensive learning residential where students of different disciplines operate as scientific-cum-creative teams, on a task set by a real-life employer
4. **Evaluate** the model and refine for future use
5. **Disseminate** good practice in interdisciplinary, entrepreneurial education
6. Provide a **legacy** of materials and resources for exploitation of lesson learnt for future implementation of interdisciplinary, entrepreneurial education



University of Nova Gorica  
Staffordshire University  
University of Turku

Vilnius Business College  
D-Labs d.o.o.  
ideate.me



# The “Nightmare”:

- **Credit equivalence** and imperfect understanding of the ECTS
- International differences in the **validation processes**
- Restriction imposed by tightly defined local curricula and **award structures** with pre-defined **timetables**
- Discrepancies between institutions’ expectations regarding teaching (**contact hours**) and **assessment** (grading criteria)
- **Lack of interest** in hard pressed academics



University of Nova Gorica  
Staffordshire University  
University of Turku

Vilnius Business College  
D-Labs d.o.o.  
ideate.me



# Was it Worth it?

Qualitative Data shows:

- High **student satisfaction** levels
- Perceived value of **skills and knowledge** gained
- Staff engaged with pedagogic approach – **‘learning by doing’**
- Appreciation of **cultural experience**
- Improved attitude towards **ownership** of learning
- **Transfer of skills** to rest of academic career
- Some **entrepreneurial aspirations!**



University of Nova Gorica  
Staffordshire University  
University of Turku

Vilnius Business College  
D-Labs d.o.o.  
ideate.me



# Thank you

[r.borup@staffs.ac.uk](mailto:r.borup@staffs.ac.uk)

More information : [www.ideate.me](http://www.ideate.me)

With the support of the  
Lifelong Learning Programme of the European Union.

This presentation reflects the views only of the author(s), and the EACEA/European Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.



University of Nova Gorica  
Staffordshire University  
University of Turku

Vilnius Business College  
D-Labs d.o.o.  
ideate.me

