

What does Student-Centred Learning (SCL) mean to students and why is it so important?

Polish Bologna Experts Seminar:

“Student centred learning – what does it mean?”

1. What is ESU?
2. What is student-centred learning?
3. How do we implement it?
4. What is ESU doing with SCL?

1

What is ESU?

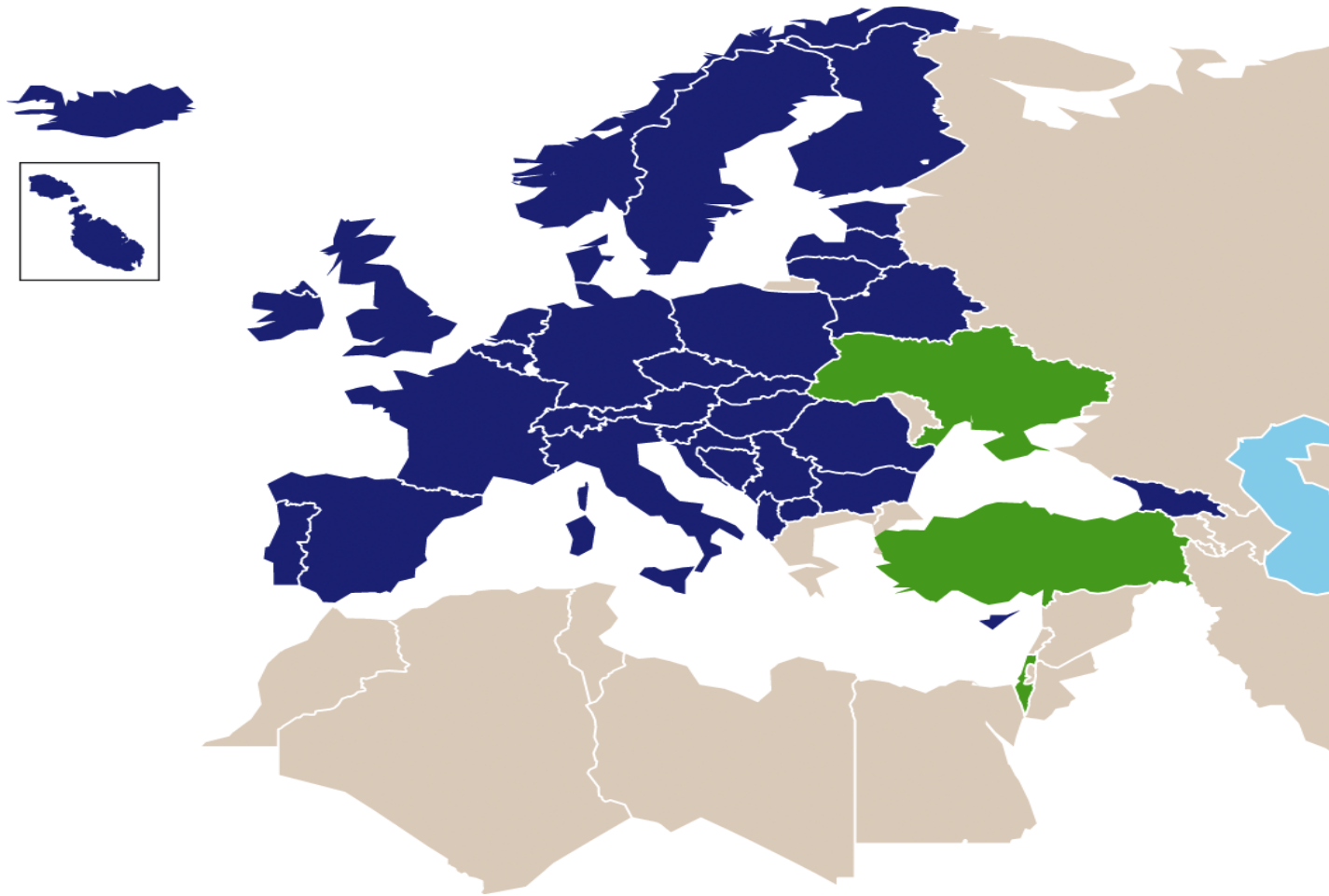
What's that?



The **European Students' Union (ESU)** is an umbrella organisation of 47 National Unions of Students from 39 different countries. Through its members, ESU represents over 11 million students in Europe.

The aim of ESU is to represent and promote the educational, social, economic and cultural interests of students at the European level towards all relevant bodies.

Nowadays...



2

What is Student-centred learning?

«Student-Centred Learning represents both a mindset and a culture within a given higher education institution and is a learning approach[...]characterised by **innovative methods of teaching** which aim to promote **learning in communication with teachers and other learners** and which **take students seriously as active participants in their own learning**, fostering transferable skills such as **problem-solving, critical thinking** and **reflective thinking.**»

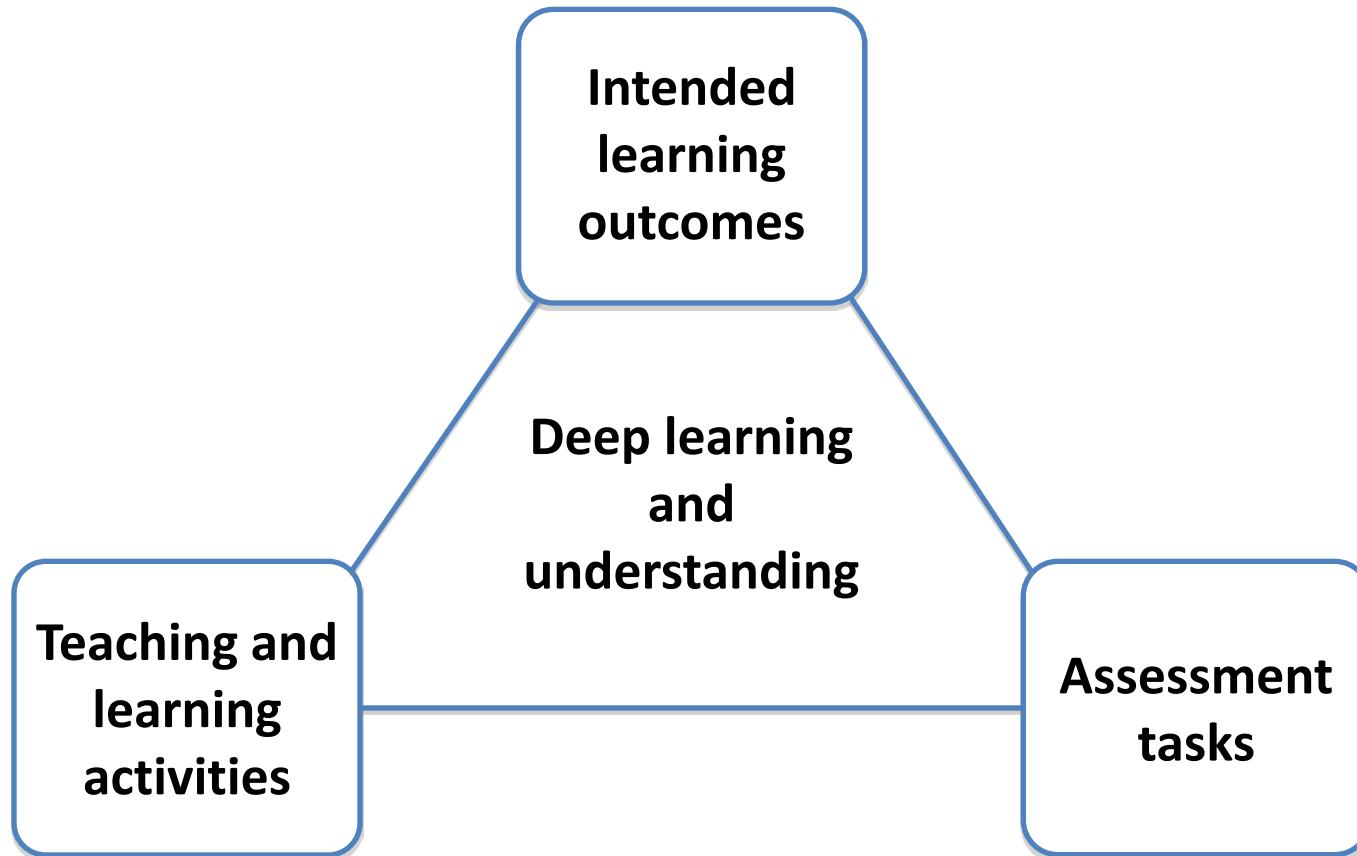
Time for Student-Centred Learning (T4SCL) Toolkit, 2011

Key concepts



- **Active learning** vs. passive learning
- Deep approaches and **understanding** vs. surface approaches
- **Autonomy**, responsibility and accountability on the part of the learner
- Mutual respect and **inter-dependence** between the teacher and learner; «the community of scholars»
- **Reflexive approaches** to the teaching and learning processes

Constructive Alignment



Principles of SCL



- - SCL requires an **ongoing reflexive process**
- **No «one size fits all» approach to SCL**
- Creating an **inclusive** learning environment
 - Students have **different learning styles**
 - Students have **different needs and interests**
 - Students have **different experiences and backgrounds**
- **Choice** central to effective learning
- SCL is about **‘enabling’** not **‘telling’** ; the teacher as a facilitator
- Learning is a **collaborative effort** between staff and students

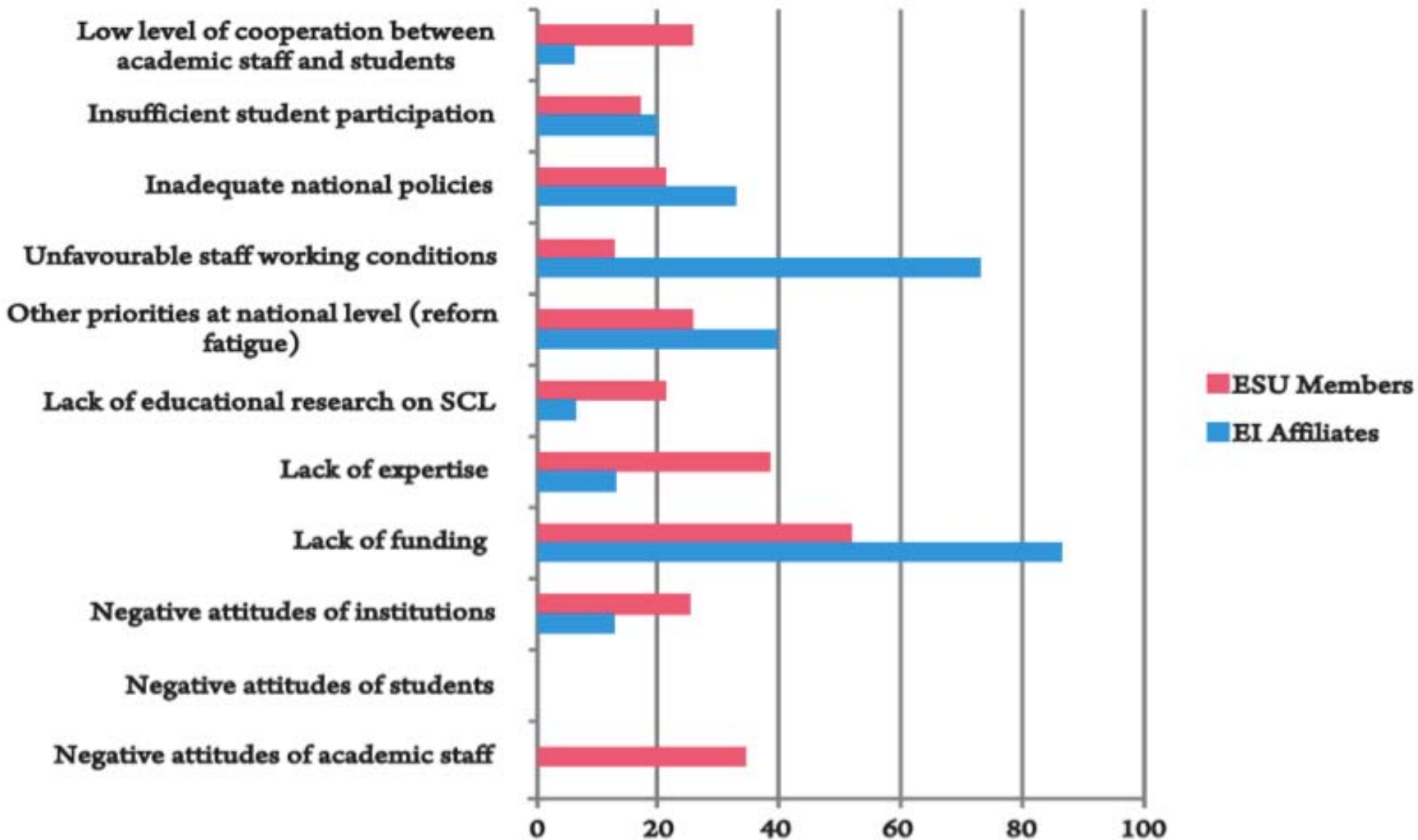
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How can we
implement SCL?

*You cannot teach a man anything.
You can only help him discover it
within himself.*

-Galileo Galilei

National barriers for change (T4SCL, 2010)



The necessary conditions for SCL



- Organisational development and **power to change**
- **Continuous professional development** for academic staff at both the disciplinary and institutional level
- **Inclusive, representative governance** on all levels
- Role of ICT, libraries and information systems
- Support through **quality assurance** mechanisms
- **Flexible rules and paths** for a diverse student population
- **Adequate resource allocation!**

4

What is ESU doing
with SCL?

Peer Assessment of Student-Centred Learning (PASCL)



“PASCL aims to assist in implementing sound student-centred learning (SCL) strategies and approaches at institutional level and to foster a culture of SCL in higher education institutions across Europe.”

- Developing a framework for peer assessment of SCL, which can lead to the awardment of a «Student-Centred Label»
- Giving institutions insight into their performance in implementing SCL
- Making visible higher education institutions' teaching mission through rewarding excellence in teaching
- Facilitating peer learning

The European Students'
Union



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Thank you!

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