
Centres of Excellence in Teaching and Learning – Their Contribution to Educational Innovation

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Centres of Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) aim to support educational innovation in higher education institutions. They can be defined as knowledge hubs that focus on the improvement and development of teachers' skills, the research-based development of educational innovations, and educational knowledge and innovation within higher education institutions. In the early 2000s, several European countries funded CETL as part of initiatives to improve education. However, these initiatives were often discontinued as the desired effects were unfortunately not achieved. At present, (renewed) Centres for Teaching and Learning (CTL) are emerging in many universities, with similar characteristics and aims as the former CETLs. In my presentation I will present an analysis of the contribution of CTLs to educational change in higher education institutions from an organisational learning perspective. Furthermore, my presentation will explore new ways of researching the new CTL. This analysis is based on case studies of seven universities from the UK, Germany and Norway. In particular, I will focus on approaches that examine how small actors with few power resources can stimulate innovation in complex, network-like organisations such as universities.