



Erasmus+

Ova publikacija odražava isključivo stajalište autora publikacije i Komisija se ne može smatrati odgovornom prilikom uporabe informacija koje se u njoj nalaze.

## Motivate me

### Ante Demo, prof.

Leading a classroom and teaching a group of students has become ever more challenging nowadays as students need to be motivated and interested in the subject being taught which is not always easy due to many distractors. Luckily, many methods or tools exist for boosting student interest and motivation. One thing that can enable a much better learning experience is to utilize technological advances in the classroom and to cater a student-centered learning approach.

The student-centered learning approach is favourable in order to make the learner more independent by researching facts, analyzing them and trying to make sense out of the things they discover. The focus is more on comprehension in this given approach and on making the student inquire further once some initial barrier is broken. As a result, student interest or motivation is heightened as a whole in this learning process and environment. People might believe that the teacher might lose importance in this manner but such a notion is far from the truth. The teacher remains important but with a slightly different role, guiding their students rather than merely lecturing in the student-centered approach and gives feedback when necessary after the students have reported on their findings. The teacher then uses examples and ideas that may help students reinforce their theories or better understand the materials or subject in question. This is an inevitable approach in modern day teaching; it may be used moderately until adopting the concept fully but teachers should definitely be encouraged in doing so.

This is all linked with the flipped classroom approach where teachers prepare materials, tasks through various platforms, videos and get the students to inquire on their own, at home and at their own pace. The students then return to the classroom having some knowledge and leave space for actual practice and debates during lessons. This requires lots of preparation from teachers but is worth the effort. This entails using technology and every teacher must be prepared to adapt to this approach or method. A good example of this is at the Khan Academy, as they give a real idea of what present/future teaching

will look like. There are many videos from them illustrating such practice. Other motivating factors could be the use of apps or other technological resources such as Edpuzzle, Plickers, Kahoot, Quizizz etc. Such tools give the teachers real time feedback on student progress and enable them to manage the classroom in a more flexible and interesting manner. It also gives more freedom to the students as they do not expose themselves to others and feel less insecure or intimidated while completing assignments. The list of ideas is endless as you can crop videos and use segments within the videos to create questions/tests/quizzes and follow student progress regarding the subject in question. These tools are ideal for any classroom and suitable for any age group.

Developing our skills as teachers and breaking old habits in the classroom are essential if we want to keep student attention, motivation and interest. Hopefully some of the ideas and suggestions mentioned will remind you of the fact that modern-day teachers need to continually work on their skills in order to create a more pleasant and motivating learning environment for all the parties involved.