

APPLIED RESEARCH STUDIES – AN OPPORTUNITY TO CREATE A BRIDGE

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Greetings from Estonia

Since 1811
1200 students
120 staff
7 +3 curricula



Background

- Since 2005 Tartu Health Care College as University of Applied Science
- 70% Master degree, 8% PhD
- UAS are required by law to carry out applied research studies
- Estonia UAS in are not provided with funds for doing research
- The possibility of finding funding in the form of (international) grants has not been used

Teaching, research, community service

- Teaching and learning is a primary mission of the applied higher education
- Applied research as main supportive process at the colleges
- Both they are important in accreditation process, also community service

How to combine these processes efficiently so that **all parties** would benefit and would be motivated ...



Support and guidance in THCC

- College Research Board (RUN)
- The project of the research study
- A research study has a principal investigator, colleagues, partners as well as students are asked to join a research group.
- Involvement of students in applied research studies so that they can also defend their final papers while being a member of a research group.



Support and guidance in THCC

- Three research domains have been identified: the process of studies, health, and the evidence-based development of the profession.
- All curricula have prepared an implementation plan of applied research. These contain planned research studies, period of time, the principal investigator
- In case of research studies which last longer than 15 month, an interim report must be submitted. A final report is submitted at the end of each applied research study.

Support and guidance in THCC

- All curricula have the position of an Assistant Professor
- Time as a resource – workload planning (1640 h)
- Since 2007 the Collection of research studies has been issued annually by the College
- College contributes a part of its operational costs to conducting applied research studies.



DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- How to achieve efficient international cooperation in terms of applied research studies – creating a joint database?
- Cooperation within a variety of projects (LdV, Erasmus) is successful, while research studies could be included in planning project activities
- Due to the fact that all research results can be implemented in practice, it constitutes opportunity for a lecturer to become involved in study process development



- Employers` interest (especially those whose specialties are taught in College) – development in the field, introduction of new directions and operating models.
- Community`s interest– validity and confirmation in order to act and change behaviour.
- The barriers to implementation can be overcome if knowledge is co-produced by academic staff and staff from working-life, taking account of the organisational context in which it is to be applied.

To support this process, the staff from practical work environment should be a full member of both the research team. (*Rowley et al 2012*)

Evidence-based teaching at colleges and in community

- Research-based knowledge will become evidence-based through practice, and it will be applied so that the knowledge gained will improve the knowledge imparted in learning and teaching,

and at the same time, the benefit would be two-sided

- practice allows us to involve the community in the learning/teaching process which enables research-based health education in the community

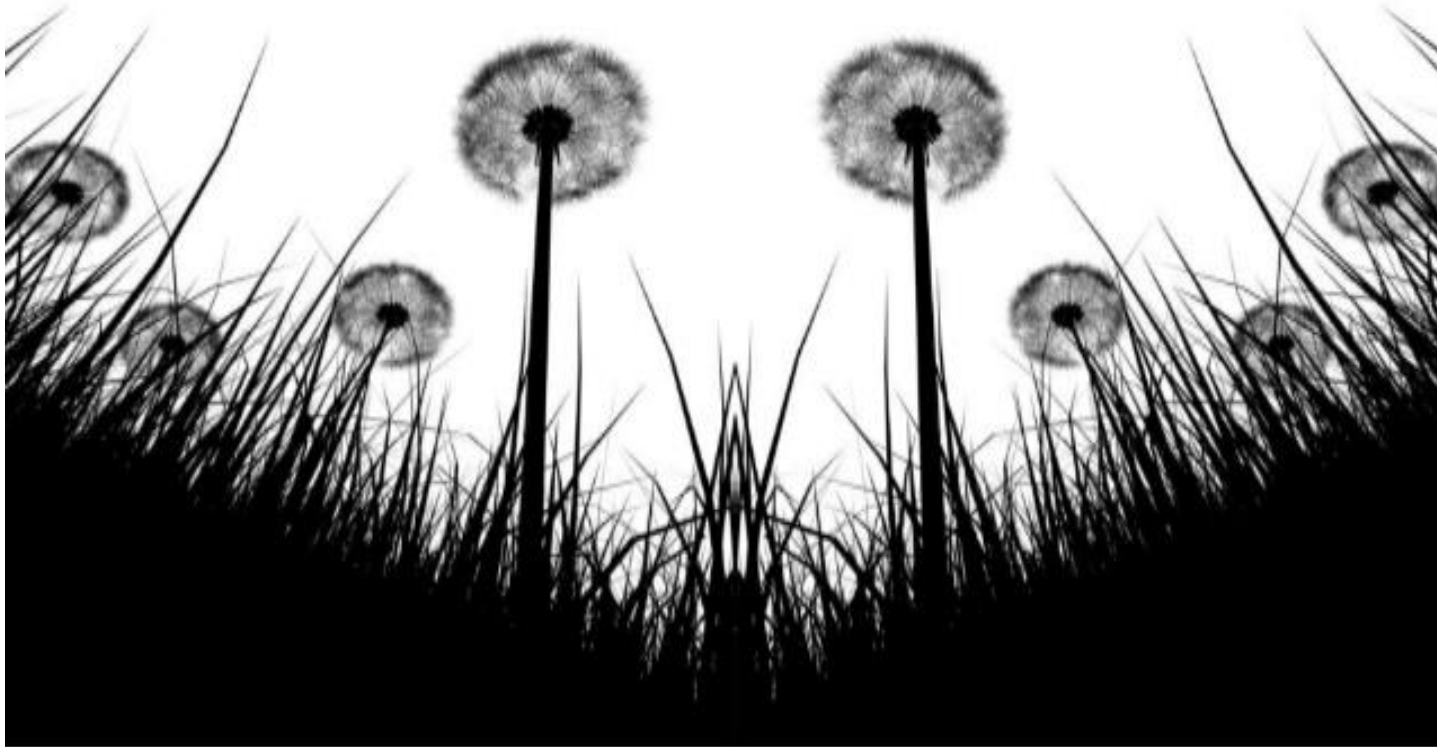


Benefits of applied-research

- For students – general competences and evidence-based learning
- For teachers – personal development and evidence-based teaching
- For practical working life – staff development and development in the field, introduction of new directions and operating models
- For community – evidence-based development in order to act and change behaviour



**Sharing seeds of ideas...
Two heads are often better than one**



Thank you!

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