

Mill-Klassi tal-Ħajja

Series 1 and Series 2 (Cremona, 2017, RTK Radio)



Introduction

As part of his commitment to advancing the synergy between academia and the educational sector, the researcher, who is a member of the Faculty of Education, led a research initiative titled Mill-klassi tal-Ħajja (*From the Classroom of life*).

This initiative comprises two series of radio programmes produced on behalf of the Faculty of Education. The first series consisted of 12 episodes, while the second series consisted of 25 weekly episodes featuring a diverse array of guests from both the Faculty and local Maltese state and non-state schools.

Theoretical Framework

This initiative is motivated by a theoretical framework that emphasizes the crucial importance of collaboration between schools and higher education institutions. The literature highlights that such partnerships are essential for bridging the gap that often exists between these two spheres (Hargreaves & Fullan, 2012; Anderson & Shattuck, 2012).

Anderson and Shattuck (2012) suggest that well-planned collaboration between schools and Faculties of Education can lead to a situation where both prospective teachers and experienced educators can benefit through curricular alignment and improved teaching strategies. Through these collaborative initiatives theory and practice are merged and eventually both students and teachers experience more motivated learning and teaching contexts.

These initiatives, based on sharing of insights also enhance reflectivity in practitioners (Korthagen and Loughran, 2012) and therefore teachers and lecturers alike become more aware of their conduct and improve their academic professional doings through constant informed evaluations (Vescio, Ross, and Adams, 2010).

This theoretical framework based on literature provided a strong foundation for the research questions guiding the *Mill-Klassi tal-#ajja* initiative. By exploring the forms of collaboration currently in place between the Faculty of Education and local schools, as well as public perceptions of these collaborations, the researcher seeks to contribute to the ongoing discourse on the need for integrated educational practices.

Research Aims

The primary research aims guiding this inquiry are:

- (1) to create collaboration between the Faculty of Education and local schools;
- (2) to create a space for the public - through phone-ins and SMS during the broadcast - to share about how these collaborations are perceived.
- (3) to tackle education-related issues which frequently end up only discussed by experts, instead of being tackled by educators and parents at grassroot levels.

Outcomes Achieved

Through rigorous research, presentation, and production of these radio programmes, the researcher successfully documented the constant and often unnoticed interactions and collaborative efforts between these educational entities. The product is a total of 36 high-quality audio files.

Another achieved outcome based on insights obtained from the participants of the radio series was the first peer-reviewed scholarly publication which came out from the work of the teams formed during the programme production phase. These teams conducted an evaluation of the content transmitted in a number of episodes of the radio series (specifically programme 2, 15, 17 and 21):

Cremona, G. (2018). The PACK checklist : a proposed pedagogical tool for multicultural foreign language learning settings. In M. Attard Tonna & J. Madalinska Michalak (Eds.), Teacher education policy and practice. International perspectives and inspirations (pp. 414-435). Warsaw: Foundation for the Development of the Education System.

Pursued research questions:

1. Which cultural representations of Germany are held by first year secondary students in the Maltese German as a Foreign Language (GFL) learning context?
2. Which characteristics (i.e. their nature and qualities) do these representations of Germany tend to manifest?

Another achieved outcome based on insights obtained from the participants of the radio series was a second peer-reviewed scholarly publication which came out from the work of teams formed during

the programme production phase. These teams conducted an evaluation of the content transmitted in a number of episodes as part of the radio series (specifically programme 1, 4, 7):

Cremona, G. (2017). The mirror framework : a critical text analysis pedagogical tool for the Foreign Language (FL) learning context. International Journal for 21st Century Education, 4(1), 43-56.

Pursued research question: Which aspects do Foreign Language teachers encounter when critically conducting the analysis of cultural representations presented in the Foreign Language texts they have at hand?

This project not only highlights the ongoing dialogue between academia and schools but also serves to celebrate and disseminate the significant contributions of both entities to the educational landscape of Malta.

References

1. Anderson, T., & Shattuck, J. (2012). Design-Based Implementation Research: An Emerging Model for Transforming Teacher Education. *Educational Policy, 26*(3), 258-273. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0895904812448497>
2. Hargreaves, A., & Fullan, M. (2012). *Professional Capital: Transforming Teaching in Every School*. Teachers College Press.
3. Korthagen, F. A. J., & Loughran, J. (2012). Developing Teacher Educators: Professional Development as the Work of Teacher Educators. *Teaching and Teacher Education, 30*, 14-22. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tate.2012.06.001>
4. Smith, K., & B. W. (2015). The Role of Teacher Collaboration in Curriculum Change: Exploring the Impact of Co-Teaching on Teacher Identity and Pedagogy. *Journal of Curriculum Studies, 47*(3), 314-337. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00220272.2014.979932>
5. Vescio, V., Ross, D., & Adams, A. (2010). A Review of Current Literature on Professional Learning Communities. *Research Brief*. <http://www.ncsu.edu/teachersupport/education/resources/PLClitreview.pdf>

Season 1 (programme 1 – 13)

Programme number	Date	Topic
1	7 th January 2017	Xi tfisser tkun għalliem fid-dinja ta' llum? The role of teaching today Mistiedna fl-Istudio: Id-deputat Dekan Prof. Chris Bezzina u l-għalliema Ms. Charmaine Zammit
2	14 th January 2017	Il-lingwi barranin u t-tagħlim tagħhom Foreign language teaching Mistiedna fl-Istudio: Id-Dekan Prof. Sandro Caruana u l-għalliema Ms. Ruth Bonello
3	21 th January 2017	Il-Matematika fil-ħajja ta' llum Mathematics and its relevance in today's contemporary world Mistiedna fl-Istudio: Dr. Michael Buhagiar u l-għalliem James Calleja
4	28 th January 2017	It-teknoloġija lussu fil-ħajja jew bżonn għat-tagħlim? Mistiedna fl-istudio: Dr. Philip Bonanno u s-sur Josmar Borg
5	4 th February 2017	Rapporti riċenti dwar l-utilita tal-lingwi fid-dinja tax-xogħol Foreign language competence in the industry Mistiedna fl-Istudio: Dr. Phyllisienne Caruana Gauci u Dr. Mario Pace
6	11 th February 2017	Eżamijiet ta' Nofs is-sena Half yearly exams Mistiedna fl-istudio: Dr. Deborah Chetcuti u l-għalliema Ms. Sarah Vassallo
7	18 th February 2017	L-edukazzjoni dwar saħħitna: l-iskola kemm qed tgħin? Awareness about health: role of formal education Mistiedna fl-istudio: Dr. Suzanne Piscopo u l-għalliem Ruben Dimech
8	25 th February 2017	Is-simboli ta' madwarna kemm qed ngħinu lill-istudenti jaqrawhom. Symbolic literature Mistiedna fl-istudio: Prof. Adrian Gellel u l-Assistant Kap tal-iskola Valerie Scerri
9	4 th March 2017	L-edukazzjoni bikrija Early Childhood education Mistiedna fl-istudio: Prof. Valerie Sollars
10	11 th March 2017	Jum iċ-ċelebrazzjoni Prize Days

		Mistiedna fl-istudio: Maria McNamara Direttur Ġenerali fil-Ministeru tal-Edukazzjoni u l-Ilettur Prof. Carmel Borg
11	18 th March 2017	L-oppportunitajiet ta' tagħlim fil-ħabs Mistiedna fl-istudio: Assistant Direttur Mariella Camilleri u Dr. Joe Giordmaina
12	25 th March 2017	Il-programm edukattiv ECOSkola Educational programme ECOSkola Mistiedna fl-istudio: Prof Paul Pace, l-istudenta Martina Pace u l-għalliema Lorraine Buttigieg
13	1 st April 2017	Kundizzjonijiet tax-xogħol għall-għalliema Work conditions of teachers Mistieden fl-istudio: Id-dekan Prof Sandro Caruana u l-għalliema Angela Coppini u lill-għalliema Flavia Grima

Season 2 (programme 14 – 26)

Programme number	Date	Topic
14	03 t' April 2017	It-tagħlim tar-religjon u l-etika Teaching of Religious Education and Ethics Mistiedna fl-istudio: Prof. Kenneth Wain u Rev. Dr. Rene Camilleri
15	10 th April 2017	L-istorja tirrepeti ruħha? History repeats itself? Mistiedna fl-istudio: Prof. Yosanne Vella
16	17 th April 2017	Studenti barranin fl-iskejjel Maltin Foreign students in schools Mistiedna fl-istudio: Dr. Colin Calleja, Dr. Francios Mifsud u s-Sur Ray Faccio!
17	24 th April 2017	Suċċessi edukattivi ta' studenti b'ADHD u Studenti b'Dyslexia Successes of Students with ADHD and Dyslexia Mistiedna fl-istudio: Prof. Victor Martinelli and Stefania a parent of two children with ADHD and Dyslexia
18	1 st May 2017 (Dan il-programm sar fil-ħin ta' programm ieħor jismu Follow-up)	L-iskejjel Maltin kif inhuma meta mqabbla ma' skejjel f'pajjiżi Ewropej? Comparative analysis of Maltese schools compared to other schools in Europe Mistieden fl-istudio: Prof. Carmel Borg u sitt għalliema minn pajjiżi Ewropej
19	8 th May 2017	L-isport u l-arti sugġetti 2 nd class? Sports and arts viewed as 2 nd class subjects? Mistiedna fl-istudio: Prof Raphael Vella u Dr. Andrew Decelis.
20	15 th May 2017	Il-ħin fil-klassi Effective time management in class Mistiedna fl-istudio: Prof Mary Darmanin
21	22 nd May 2017	Ħarsa kritika lejn korsijiet offruti mill-fakulta tal-Edukazzjoni A critical evaluation of Teacher education courses offered the Faculty Mistiedna fl-istudio: L-istudenti tal-Fakulta Chantelle Borg u Andrew Abela
22	29 th May 2017	Il-klassijiet fl-iskejjel Maltin kemm huma inklussivi? Inclusion in Maltese classrooms Mistiedna fl-istudio: Dr. Elena Tanti Burlo u Dr. Anne Marie Callus

23	5 th June 2017	<p>Il-valur edukattiv ta' Facebook u għodda simili Educational value of Facebook and other social media</p> <p>Mistiedna fl-istudio: Dr. Patrick Camilleri, l-għalliema Sharon Camilleri Magro u l-assistant kap ta' skola Ralph Camilleri</p>
24	12 th June 2017	<p>Il-bilingwiżmu għodda utli jew kapriċċ? Is bilingualism needed or a luxury?</p> <p>Mistiedna fl-istudio: L-għalliem u r-riċerkatu Nick O' Neil.</p>
25	19 th June 2017	<p>Is-suġġetti vokazzjonali Vocational Education and Training</p> <p>Mistiedna fl-istudio: Dr. Sarah Pule u s-Sur Carmel Navarro</p>
26	26 th June 2017	<p>It-teži Dissertations</p> <p>Mistiedna fl-istudio: Dr. Lara Said</p>