

UNIVERSALUT HEALTH FAIR: AN EFFECTIVE EXPERIENTIAL TEACHING METHODOLOGY

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INTRODUCTION

There is a clear need for hands-on learning that face our students to real situations. With *Universalut*, a health fair prepared *at hoc*, the students were set in a real environment in contact with citizens to put into practice the acquired competences. Moreover, the university approaches society, spreading healthy lifestyles among the population.

Our Faculty of Pharmacy is responsible for the Degree in Pharmacy, Degree in Food Science and Technology, Degree in Human Nutrition and Dietetics, and Degree in Gastronomic Sciences.

AIM/S

Universalut was conceived to provide a real professional situation to our students with citizens as an optimal way to improve their soft and hard professional skills. In addition, healthy lifestyle was promoted among the population and our different degrees were also announced.

Moreover, it was designed as an experiential learning to promote interprofessional relationships.

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METHOD

The Faculty/University services contact the council of Valencian Community cities to organize a (health) fair. It consists of several workshops, both for adults and children, showing some professional services of pharmacists. The city council has to provide urban furniture and a safe environment. Volunteer staff is involved in the supervision of the preparation and actual performance of workshops, that are carried out by students. The students voluntarily enroll and receive 1.5 ECTS for participating. The preparation of the workshops and its materials includes different methodologies of teaching-learning such as role-playing, design of infographics, reflecting on contents, with high impact on motivation. Students from other health science grades are also invited to participate in order to facilitate teamwork and interdisciplinary learning.

RESULTS

The project began 2018-2019 course with two health fairs. On April 8th, 2019 around 40 students and 7 professors made *Universalut* possible in Ontinyent (Fig. 1). On April 13th, 2019, 70 students and 11 teachers participated in Villar del Arzobispo (Fig. 2), where companies and associations joined. 11 different workshops (Fig. 3) were carried out by Pharmacy students, while 7 were performed by Human Nutrition and Dietetics students and 7 were implemented by Food Sciences students.

During 2019-20, three cities expressed interest in receiving *Universalut* and took the compromise. A total of 136 Pharmacy students enrolled for the training stage. However, COVID-19 pandemic forced us to postpone those appointments. Nowadays, we are waiting for a safer scenario to continue the project.



Figure 1. Students and teachers involved in *Universalut* – Ontinyent (April 8th, 2019).



Figure 2. Students and teachers involved in *Universalut* – Villar del Arzobispo (April 13th, 2019).

Figure 3. Example of an Universalut workshop.

Both adults and children participate on it.



CONCLUSION

Universalut promotes learning of students while transmitting evidence-based health education, bringing the university closer to society. Universalut participants are highly satisfied with the outcomes.