



ERASMUS+



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Tool nr.117

Name of the material: assessing the quality of you inquiry

Sources: Rutger van de Sande and Maud Slaats, Fontys University of Applied Sciences, the Netherlands

Purpose of the protocol:

Assessing the quality of you inquiry

Materials:

A final product of an inquiry cycle

Process:

1. All plc members read and get acquainted with the five validities presented below
2. The plc members read the final product of an inquiry
3. The plc members engage in a conversation on the inquiry by assessing the product using the five validities

Assessing quality through the five validities

Practitioner inquiry is different from scientific research. This is reflected in the criteria used to determine the quality of practitioner inquiry. Anderson and Herr (1999, p.16) provided a framework that could be used as a guide in assessing this quality. They have named the quality criteria 'validities':

- **Outcome validity** refers to the degree that the inquiry has contributed to solving the initial problem.
- **Process validity** refers to the depth of the inquiry as a measure of the degree to which it is in alignment with the initial problem, which makes drawing conclusions plausible.
- **Democratic validity** refers to the degree to which all stakeholders of the practice to which the inquiry refers are recognized as such and involved in the inquiry process.
- **Catalytic validity** refers to the degree that the inquiry leads to new insights of the stakeholders and their desire to pursue changes following from these insights.
- **Dialogic validity** refers to the degree that the inquiry is discussed with peers.