

Escola Nova 21

Closing Ceremony

CosmoCaixa

Honourable Speaker of the Parliament, Minister, Member of Parliament, President of the UNESCO Centre, Director of the La Caixa Foundation, Director of the Bofill Foundation, head teachers and teachers,

A university's involvement in a project innovating in primary and secondary education should come as no surprise. And not just because today's schoolchildren are on their way to becoming the university students of tomorrow.

The UOC taking part in the Escola Nova 21 project reflects the emphasis that our approach – with its concept based on making the university as accessible and as welcoming as possible – puts on pedagogy and teaching methods that make the student the central focus.

In Catalonia, when talking about concepts such as these, about pedagogy, teaching methods and innovation, we should also talk about the long tradition of fine work led by its teachers, who have been the leading agents and drivers of change.

This was the basis for the Escola Nova 21 project, in which the UOC, an active participant in the Catalan university system, was keen to be involved right from the very first moment, combining our efforts, contributing expertise and sharing our goals.

Such ambitions led to the creation of the Master's Degree in Improvement of Teaching in Primary and Infant Education.

This joint programme – run together with the University of Vic, and launched with help from the Catalan Government's Ministry of Education and its Universities and Research Department – served as a pilot training experience for teachers in schools in central Catalonia.

It is a master's programme that has brought improvements in education through global learning methodologies, competency-based learning, and active participation from the

teachers studying on the programme, who have been wholly engaged, contributing their invaluable professional knowledge.

It has been a programme enriched by some unique experiences generously shared by the professionals and schools involved in the Escola Nova 21 project.

Their commitment to the project has fuelled initiatives such as the «Let's activate change!» workshops, in which, thanks to an excellent collaboration with the Bofill Foundation, activities with training and exchanges have been organized in various Catalan towns and cities.

And now all of these initiatives and programmes have reached successful conclusions, having played important roles.

Nevertheless, our work is not done.

«Now we must make all-round learning and educational innovation priorities on the political agenda.

Now we must ensure continuity, among teaching professionals and also with initiatives that support good practices, building for our future.»

Because there is no stopping the force of evolution in education.

Thank you very much.

Josep A. Planell