

## SIG4 Newsletter

March 2016

*Dear SIG4 members,*

In this newsletter you will find information about the results of the member survey. In a separate attachment you can find the flyer of the EAPRIL 2016 conference, taking place in Porto, Portugal, on November 22-25, 2016.

### Member survey

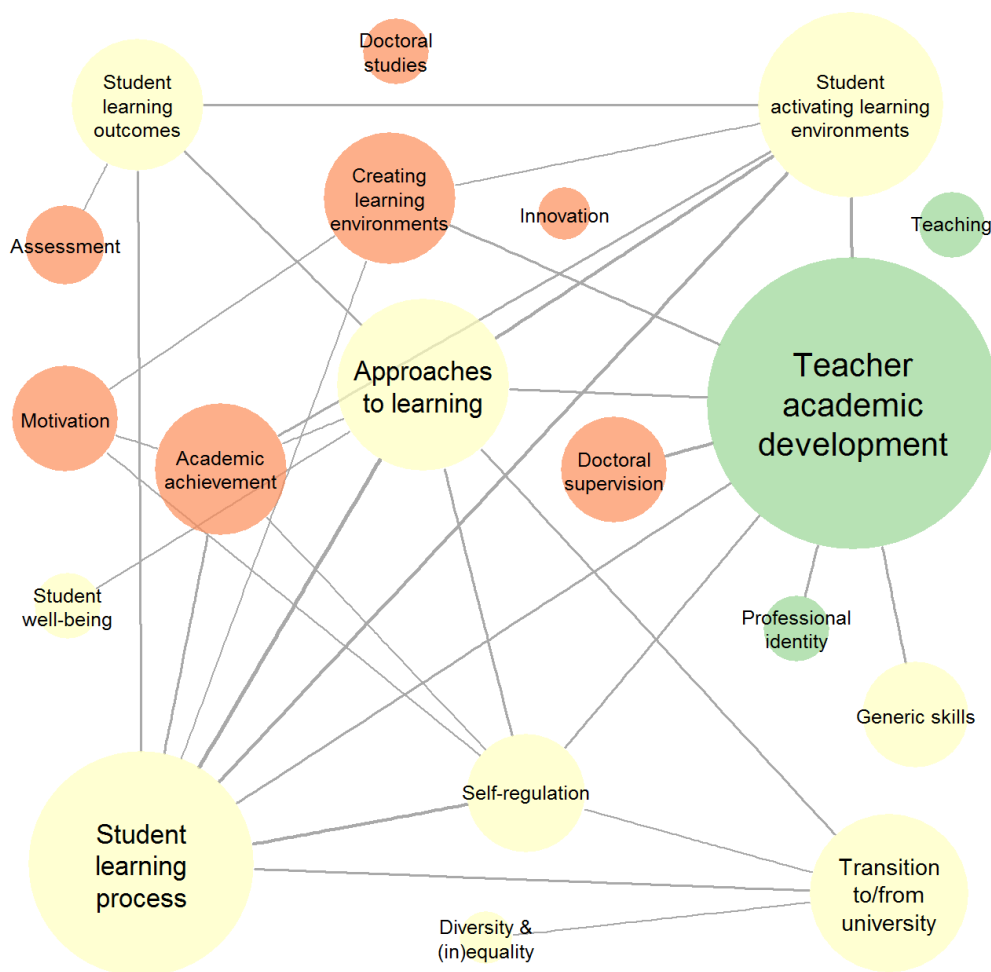
Thank you very much for your answers to our member survey! 41 (20,6%) of the SIG members completed the survey, so that we have at least some indicators of the members' activities and opinions.

Here you find some of the (for us) most interesting results – the full results will be, of course, presented at the next SIG4 business meeting at the HEC (<http://www.hec2016.org/>).

The quantitative results indicate that most of the respondents have been members between one and 10 years so far (70%).

Most interesting to us, many of you work in the field of teacher academic development (54%), followed by student learning processes (41%), student-activating learning processes and approaches to learning (32%).

On the next page you can find a **concept map** indicating the research areas of the SIG members. The node size is dependent on the number of persons that mentioned the category, and the thickness of the edges is dependent on the number of times two categories were mentioned together.



We also received valuable feedback from our members that helps us to further develop our activities. Below we have summarised the feedback and our own thoughts about how to address these comments:

### 1) Communication

Generally the members were satisfied with the frequency of communication through the newsletter and e-mails. However, also more frequent communication was hoped for, and a suggestion of a SIG4 Facebook page was made to deliver information between the newsletters. *Thank you very much for this suggestion – we will launch a SIG4 FB group in the near future to further enhance the communication between SIG4 members.*

### 2) SIG4 activities

We received lots of positive feedback of the SIG4 activities during the EARLI conferences. Also the SIG conferences were considered as interesting, and collaboration with other SIGs or HE institutions in organising the conferences were

considered as stimulating. It was considered that SIG4 provides good opportunities to connect with other European HE researchers. *We hope we are able to organise interesting SIG4 activities in the future as well! Any further suggestions are welcome!*

### **3) Focus of SIG4**

Some of the feedback brought up the strong emphasis of SIG4 on research on student learning, mainly quantitative in nature, as well as strong representation of specific countries, leading to a narrower focus on other research fields and research conducted by the members in the less represented countries. Especially, it was hoped that research on teaching in higher education would be more emphasized and made more visible in our SIG.

*The SIG4 survey also showed the large amount of research on teaching in higher education. Thus we feel that more focus on this area of research is needed indeed. The already-agreed SIG4 symposium at the HEC conference in Amsterdam next July focuses on social aspects of teaching and in HE, and the SIG4 symposium at the JURE conference next July addresses the role of working life skills in HE (both from the perspective of teaching and learning). Thus, luckily the aspect of teaching is included in both of these symposia. However, we feel that after many previous symposia focusing on student learning, the SIG4 invited symposium at the EARLI 2017 conference could focus on teaching in higher education. Please feel free to make more specific suggestions concerning this symposium!*

### **4) Support for collaborative research projects and young researchers**

A suggestion was made to support collaborative research projects among the SIG4 members. *We truly hope that the SIG4 symposia in various conferences will serve as an arena to build such collaboration. Hopefully also the new SIG4 Facebook page will increase interaction among the members and lead to discussions about research collaboration.*

*With regard to support for young researchers, EARLI is making plans for providing mentoring support for PhD students and early career researchers. We will inform about this as soon as we have more detailed information.*

Please contact us if you have any comments or questions about these results, or if you have any additional wishes for the development of SIG4!

*Wishing you a successful and happy springtime!*

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