

LIFE

Presentation and goals

Innovation-Training-Education Lab A research group in Educational Sciences

LIFE (Laboratoire Innovation-Formation-Education) is a research, analysis and intervention group in Educational Sciences, established in 2000 at the University of Geneva. Its main focus: innovation in the field of training and education. LIFE seeks to develop both knowledge on innovation and innovative knowledge.

The scientific issue covered by LIFE's work is to describe and explain better and better innovation processes in a systemic and interactionist perspective, based on both historical and comparative methods. The transformations of training systems do not follow a unique and one-way framework: they result from the confrontation between social actors who are defending their interests, visions of education and values, and developing strategies on accordance with certain preferred changes in education, with *status quo* or with a return to the past. Innovation is constantly negotiated within training organizations and in a wider social field, the knowledge derived from research being one possible source of legitimacy of the proposed changes.

The social challenge of LIFE's work is to provide education stakeholders, or to develop with them more realistic models of how one can design, manage, evaluate, regulate and ensure the success of the innovation process, taking into account the diversity of views and the complexity of the systems, while respecting two main global guiding principles: stakeholder participation in decisions that affect them and democratization of access to knowledge and proficiency.

The field of relevant innovation covers all levels of education, from changes in the kindergarten to the establishment of professional training or development of institutions of higher education.

Members of LIFE :

- conduct and publish studies and research on the innovation processes;
- develop analytical tools, for evaluation and regulation of practices and change;
- accompany innovative approaches at various levels;
- lead groups of reflection and self-training struggling with an innovation ;
- organize training and scientific events in the field of innovation;
- offer various forms of expertise and consultation on the innovation process ;
- work on networking and exchange between sites and innovation actors;
- seek partnerships with institutions or groups with similar interests;
- develop a database and a website on processes and innovation strategies observed in the various school systems.

For more information: www.unige.ch/fapse/life

Key words: Change - Innovation - Training - Education - Knowledge - Competence - Practice - Policy - Democratization - Participation.