Establishing learning processes within universities

Establishing learning processes within universities calls for communicative spaces. That is difficult enough but two other elements are required:

(i)   The will to establish such spaces and to sustain them over time. Will implies intentionality but it will need also to have legitimacy. So the will needs to be within the Rectorate team or near to it, and clearly supported by it.

(ii)   It isn't the case that every member of the university needs to be involved. But it is the case that the processes need to carry **legitimacy** across the university and, for that, it needs to be evident that the processes of inquiry are open, transparent, and that all involved feel that they have room to express their voice.

A People's Parliament (within each university) suggests itself but:

- It would have to be properly resourced,
- Able to mount its own inquiries
- And to address sensitive issues

It should put in hand serious inquiries on major topics. It should see itself as having research and developmental capacities, researching the pertinent literature and producing reports on the functioning and nature of the university. It would set up open workshops on issues.

It would be a means by which the university learnt about itself and integrated itself.

Take an issue such as transdisciplinarity: what is understood by the idea across the departments? What possibilities are there for transdisciplinarity across the university? How might it be developed? Would it treat research and teaching separately? How might transdisciplinarity respond to public debates? What are the options for its institutionalisation? A People's Parliament would set such an inquiry in motion and produce reports with options.

It should be chaired by a respected and experienced member of the university but someone who is not a member of the Rectorate team.

Such a People's Parliament would be in touch with other such People's Parliaments in other universities, especially in the region and, from time to time, coordinate on particular issues and even integrate their inquiries.

So integration could work in this way both within a university and across universities.