

# Spanish Language Learning Experience (SPALE)

Highly Interactive Learning with Formative Assessment

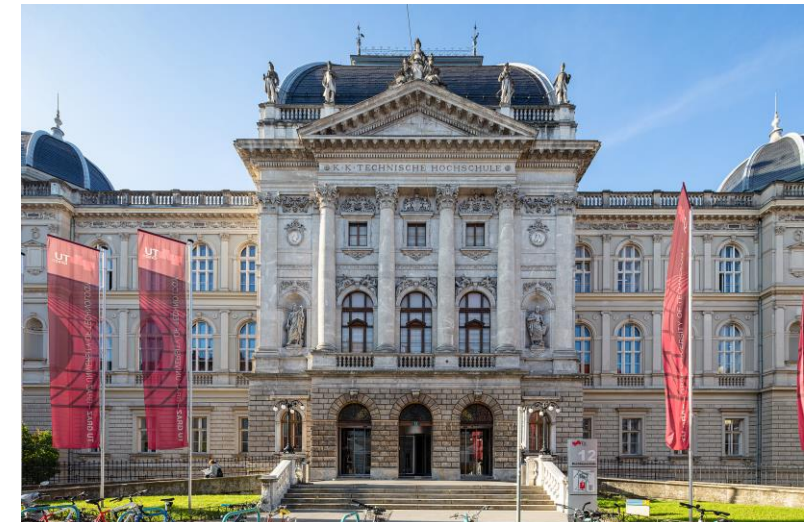
Dr. Isabel Landsiedler

Graz University of Technology

[isabel.landsiedler@tugraz.at](mailto:isabel.landsiedler@tugraz.at)

## What is the context?

- Graz University of Technology
- Languages, Key Competencies and In-House Training
- 50 language courses in seven different languages per semester
- Optional courses
- 2 semester hours
- 2 ECTS
- Between 24 to 30 participants
- Spanish for Engineers - Beginners (A1)



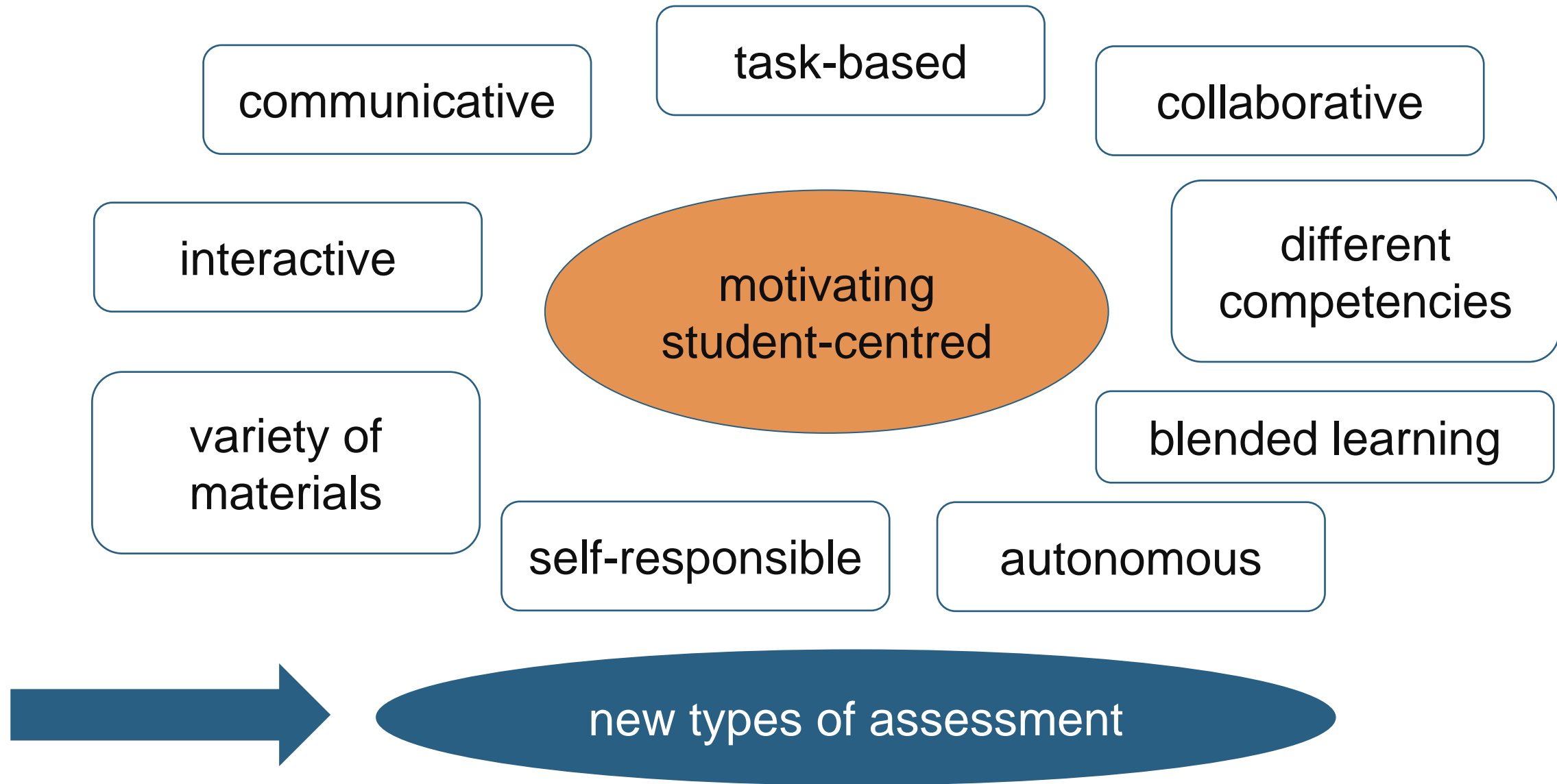
[www.markus-kaiser.at](http://www.markus-kaiser.at)

## Guiding questions for this concept

How can we increase motivation in language learning?

How can we prepare our students for life-long learning?

Do we need so much summative assessment at universities?







Interactive face-to-face  
meetings (online, in person)

Input

Work packages



Additional Material and Tools



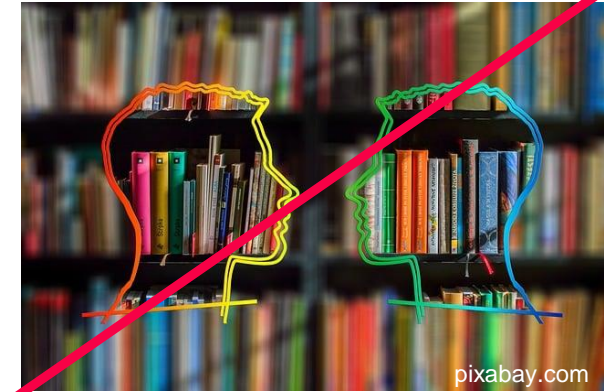
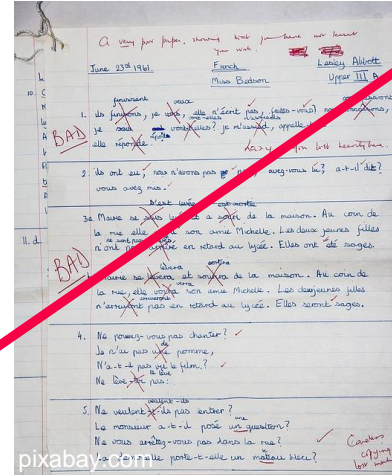
Individualized  
feedback

All pictures - pixabay.com

- Change in assessment needed
- No summative assessment

## New assessment

- Formative
- Several tasks with individualized feedback (audio, video, text)
- Learning portfolio (weekly)
- Self-assessment
- Language learning group (3 students, outside the course)



- Learning paths
- Individualized feedback and support
- Time independent and flexible learning
- Peer feedback
- Self-assessment
- Learner autonomy and self-responsibility
- Higher motivation
- Same/better results
- Formative assessment is motivating



- Student-centredness increases motivation
- Small learning groups are very efficient
- Self-responsibility and learner autonomy must be guided (learning paths)
- Variety of learning materials is needed
- Individualized feedback increases efficiency, success and motivation
- Summative assessment is not needed
- Formative assessment increases motivation and success
- Grading is more difficult
- Guided collaboration leads to better learning outcomes



14 other  
courses

languages

levels

content

## What is needed for implementation?

- Seminars, interactive settings
- Small groups (maximum of 30)
- Platform and other tools necessary
- Motivation of lecturer
- Sensible and student-centred tasks for students
- Guidance and support
- Communication

## ■ What do the students say?

The Spanish course is really very motivating and although I was very sceptical about a blended learning concept at the beginning, it is an enriching experience learning a language in this way.  
(Magdalena)



Students using red paper to show what they still have to learn and repeat.  
(Blanca, Fabian, Vishal)

The course is very well structured and is fun as well. We have really learned a lot in this semester. Gracias.  
(Favour, Lea, Martha)