



EMPOWERING TEACHERS TO IMPLEMENT INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

In the 2014 UNESCO and IBE expert meeting in Paris, it was agreed that inclusive education is a human right and also a strategy to prepare all learners for a 21st century globalised society. Participants stressed the need for improved knowledge management and data availability to support countries in developing inclusive processes and practices.

The European Agency for Special Needs and Inclusive Education (the Agency) has agreed to work for UNESCO to support the creation of this knowledge base on inclusive approaches to teaching and learning.

Focus

This work will involve the production of a case study focusing upon empowering teachers to meet diverse learning needs and promote inclusive education. The study will look at the development of inclusive pedagogy and training and support issues, primarily across Agency member countries. The study will describe in depth current examples of teacher education (initial teacher education (ITE) and continuing professional development (CPD)) and will aim to:

- provide evidence of effective practice through a critical analysis of recent literature and a small number of reported cases
- highlight key issues for attention and processes used to overcome particular challenges
- consider formal, informal and non-formal professional development activities.

Teacher Education for Inclusion

The case study work will be supported by a literature review drawing upon research literature from 2010 to present. This will build on the Agency's Teacher Education for Inclusion (TE4I) project (2009-2012) and also other recent Agency projects such as the Organisation of Provision to support Inclusive Education and Raising the Achievement of all Learners in Inclusive Education.

The case study will aim to address some specific questions about how teachers can best be empowered to take account of children's rights and provide a high-quality, equitable education for all. It will consider effective practice by teacher educators in initial teacher education that contributes to the development of competences that will enable teachers to support the full participation of all learners. The key role of schools leaders in continuing professional development and effective collaborative practice will also be examined.



European Country Information

A call will be sent out to the Agency network of 29¹ member countries for information specifically relating to teacher education since the end of the TE4I project in 2012. The Agency will also draw on recent information on legislation and policy development, recognising that teacher education policy and practice cannot be considered in isolation from other policies such as those on school curricula, assessment, evaluation and accountability.

Where there have been significant developments in policy or practice or where the Agency project is known to have had a particular impact, detailed examples of practice will be collected. It is anticipated that such information will be gathered from a minimum of 3 countries.

The examples will focus in particular on changes that have taken place in teacher education in relation to the findings and recommendations of the TE4I project.

Inclusive Education in Action

Examples collected from Agency member countries may also be published on the IEA website: <http://www.inclusive-education-in-action.org/iea/> that was jointly developed by the Agency and UNESCO in 2010.

New examples will be added to the site specifically relating to teacher education (ITE and CPD). Examples currently on the site will be followed up to look at the impact of the work originally documented, together with any recent developments.

Timescale

Work on Empowering Teachers will run from July - November 2015. The draft case study will be completed by mid October with a final draft by November. New examples will also be added to the IEA site by November 2015.

¹ Austria, Belgium (Flemish and French speaking communities), Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales)