

“Regional Support for Inclusive Education”

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Implemented
by the Council of Europe

An inclusive school

is a school where:

every child is welcome

every parent is involved

every teacher is valued

1st TeacherNet working group meeting

Hotel Victory
Mother Teresa Street
Pristina, Kosovo*

18 November 2014

Agenda

DRAFT



* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

What is the overall goal of the Joint Project?

The Joint EU/CoE Project “Regional Support for Inclusive Education” promotes the concept of inclusive education in seven Beneficiaries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" and Kosovo*. In this Project, inclusive education is promoted as a reform principle that respects and caters for diversity amongst all learners, with a specific focus on those who are at a higher risk of marginalisation and exclusion. The project applies a bottom-up approach to promote inclusive education practices in the school: the good practices identified by the Inclusive SchoolNet and the Inclusive TeacherNet feed the Inclusive PolicyNet in the process of scaling up these practices in the region.

What is TeacherNet and its objective?

The main objective of the teacher support component is to improve teacher competences and practices for inclusive education. This component is designed in particular for teacher professional development, exchange and learning. The Project established a regional teacher network - Inclusive TeacherNet - with constant composition (35 teachers per Beneficiary or 245 teachers in total, from both primary and secondary – general and VET – schools) for mutual learning and exchange of experience.

What has been achieved until now under TeacherNet?

Teacher education and professional development is an issue of concern for the entire region. In line with the commitment towards teacher support, the Project undertook a mapping study of the existing teacher training programmes for inclusion in the region. The study was carried out by a team of international experts during April – July 2014. The Project supported a series of consultations with the stakeholders – governmental bodies, schools, experts and teacher training providers – in field visits and two regional TeacherNet workshops held in Skopje and Tirana to obtain feedback on the preliminary findings. The report was finalized and published in the Project website.²

The mapping exercise and the discussions during the workshops in Skopje and Tirana pointed out the need to work on reducing the fragmentation within the teacher professional development process and to help create an overall frame of shared knowledge, methods and practices. This would help teacher educators to design tailored-to-needs learning activities and would also support teachers and schools to benefit most from the professional development activities. This approach is more comprehensive and requires that various stakeholders are brought into discussion. As pointed out in the mapping report “teacher education should be part of a broader school-development process where other activities such as cooperation with other schools, school projects and peer-learning also contribute towards creating a more inclusive school and classroom.”

A team of consultants will design the overarching methodology and develop three tools that can be used by teacher education stakeholders in the region - universities, NGOs, government, schools and others) to upgrade and improve the existing teacher education programmes that aim to develop teacher competences for inclusion. The Joint Project established therefore a working group with composition from the three regional networks: PolicyNet, TeacherNet and SchoolNet, that will serve as

² Link to the mapping report: http://pjp-eu.coe.int/documents/1473702/2308705/Mapping_Report_final_OA.pdf/845ee923-797a-42c8-90ab-882f70c01754

a consultation group during the process of designing the overall frame of teacher learning for inclusion and the tools that will help the region upgrade the current professional development approaches in pre-service, in-service and mentorship teacher training areas.

What is the TeacherNet working group?

The TeacherNet working group is a cross-beneficiary group composed of representatives of the three networks of the Joint EU/CoE Project “Regional Support for Inclusive Education”. The working group is created with the purpose of serving as a consultation group for the TeacherNet component of the Project.

What are the objectives and expected results of the meeting?

The working group is meeting in Pristina on 18 November 2014 to discuss and provide feedback on the draft overarching methodology and draft tools to be used by teacher education stakeholders in the region for upgrading activities for teacher professional development for inclusive education. As a result of the meeting, input will be provided to the draft overarching framework and draft upgrading tools for teacher learning for inclusion. The meeting will engage an interactive and participatory approach to ensure that feedback is captured from all participants.

Agenda **18 November 2014, Pristina**

09:00 – 09:20	Opening remarks <i>Host: Ms. Lulavere Behluli, Head of Division for Special Needs Education, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology</i> <i>Mr. Andrew Forde, Deputy Head of Office, Council of Europe Office in Pristina</i>
09:20 – 09:30	Meeting objectives and expected results <i>Ms. Eljona Elmazi, Project Officer, Joint EU/CoE Project “Regional Support for Inclusive Education”</i>
09:30 – 09:45	Teacher support through the pilot schools’ small grants proposals <i>Ms. Marijana Todorović, Project Officer, Joint EU/CoE Project “Regional Support for Inclusive Education”</i>
09:45 – 10:30	Presentation of draft framework for teacher learning for inclusive education <i>Prof. Dr. Judith Hollenweger, Zurich University of Teacher Education</i>
	Questions and answers
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 – 12:30	Small group discussions
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch

- 13:30 – 14:15** **Modelling the Pathway: Presentation of the draft tools for the upgrade of teacher education programmes**
Prof. Dr. Judith Hollenweger, Zurich University of Teacher Education
- Questions and answers**
- 14:15 – 16:00** **Small group discussions**
- 16:00 – 17:15** **Presentations from the group discussions**
- 17:15 – 17:30** **Concluding remarks and next steps**

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For more information about the Joint EU/CoE Project “Regional Support for Inclusive Education” please check the website:

<http://pjp-eu.coe.int/en/web/inclusive-education>

and the Project Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/RegionalSupportInclusiveEducation?ref=hl>