

“Regional Support for Inclusive Education”

2nd Annual Conference in South East Europe

“INCLUSIVE EDUCATION IN PRACTICE”

Patterns, tools and actions

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Session 4 „Inclusive Education in the region: the future“

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Panel discussion: Wednesday 29 October, from 14:30 to 15:30

Duration: 15 minutes

General consideration about the project:

Inclusive Education is one of the most important issues in education and the interest from Ministry of Education and Sports in Albania and all its partners is growing every day. The project was received with great interest from the Ministry, and it has been part of its plans and programs.

Within this year the project has progressed constantly, that is why I consider it “a regional movement”

This project through its steering board composed of ministry representatives managed to bring in discussions about concrete situations in each member state, situations which need improvement and concrete examples how we could have the support of EU and Council of Europe.

The project helped experts to move and analyze the concrete situation in every country and school and propose concrete solutions.

The project served to teachers a lot, they met colleagues from the region, exchanged ideas and became part of advanced experiences in Europe.

1. What are the benefits of regional approach in inclusive education to your Ministry?

1. It is the almost the first and the widest regional cooperation in the field of education and when it took place it was for one of the most important issues Inclusive education, which happens to be a priority for all region.

2. It has increased institutional responsibility towards the issue itself and created a sense of a greater responsibility because it is considered as a regional challenge. Countries part of the project “Regional Support for Inclusive Education” share more or less the same tradition of the education system, which is a good base for the development of mutual understanding and sharing common values when it comes to the policy of inclusive education.

3. The three nets created have put down for solution the key issues of inclusive education tackling teacher education, secondary education and school infrastructure.

4. It has become an inter-institutional sensitive issue because the project brought together in an immediate discussion different institutions, which now are more concerned and sensitive about Inclusive Education.

5. It Accelerated the design of some important bylaws such as law for VET, language of signs, psychological and sociological service, registering in pre school and school every Roma child,

free books for Roma children and families with social difficulties, support for the integration of emigrant children to school and other.

6. It became a tool for mobility of teachers, experts, in the region and wider, and will serve to the future mobility for students, teachers and labour market.

7. Seven schools in Albania now are considered “leader schools” in the area of inclusion and will spread the experience. They are now showing capabilities in finding, designing and managing situations in the schools concerning inclusive education.

8. it has created a data base and an active webpage where beneficiaries can find materials, ideas, experiences.

11. The project will serve to the common goal for 6 countries in the region to joining European Union, learning from the experience of Croatia and Slovenia already Members of EU, respecting three main pillars, respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law

12. It served to me in another professional angel, I feel more included, very much aware of the Inclusive education which has not been as part of my field of expertise. I have now friends in the region and wider with whom I can share ideas and experiences.

II. How can your Ministry support the regional efforts in inclusive education?

1. Supporting sustainability of the project with concrete initiatives. One of them is “School as community centre”. We have produced standards and the guide for schools. We have stimulated teachers, improved work with local governments and especially with school communities to make the initiative concrete.
2. Challenging our educational systems by producing better of policies, especially the policies for inclusive education of disadvantaged groups.
3. Strengthening regional and mutual cooperation we empower our efforts to make inclusive education sustainable. Propose through integration instruments like IPA and other EU projects concerning teacher education and training.
4. Support initial and continuous teacher education.
5. Exchanging information, the identification of good practices and sharing them.
6. Supporting schools in their cooperation with local governments.
7. Put in use all tools and documents produced by this project
8. Encourage and become part of media campaigns for further raising awareness about inclusive education.
9. Improving school infrastructure and atmosphere turning the school in the place where students feel good and included for what they are and for a better future .

Thank you!