

## INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT) IN EDUCATION FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education (UNESCO-IITE) and the European Agency for Development in Special Needs Education (the Agency) are currently working on a joint project to develop a Practice Review. This will be a major new publication which we hope will be available early in 2011.

The Practice Review will present examples of practice of the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) with people with disabilities in different educational contexts and settings. The goal of the Review is to highlight key messages and recommendations for policy and practice in this area.

The use of the term 'people with disabilities' is understood within the terms of the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, 2006: *Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.* (p5)

In order to further explore ICT as a tool in education for learners with disabilities, four possible areas of application of ICT will be covered in the Practice Review.

### *(i) Supporting personal access to information and knowledge*

ICT as a tool for improving a learner's access to information and knowledge in formal and non-formal learning situations.

### *(ii) Supporting personal communication*

ICT as a tool for alternative/augmentative communication to replace or supplement personal communication barriers; ICT as a tool for overcoming social and/or geographical isolation.

### *(iii) Supporting learning and teaching situations*

ICT for pedagogical, didactic uses, assisting in personal, learning development and shaping new skills; ICT as a tool for teachers to support learning.

### *(iv) Supporting access to educational administrative procedures*

ICT as a tool for accessing administrative procedures in organisations; ICT as a tool for administrators to improve their services for learners with disabilities.

## Collecting Examples for the Practice Review

In order to collect interesting and applicable examples of practice relating to these four thematic areas, a two-stage approach is being used within the Review:

In Phase 1, we are asking key professionals working in the field to send us outline information briefly describing an example they would like to be considered for the review. All the outlines received will then be considered for balance in terms of focus, exemplifying

the four thematic areas, geographical spread and coverage of different educational situations.

In Phase 2, we will ask for more detailed information relating to a selected number of practice examples. In addition, we plan to collate the brief outline information from other interesting examples of practice as a further source of information within the final Practice Review.

We are now at the stage of requesting short overview information as part of phase 1 work.

### **Submitting an Example of Consideration in the Review**

To accompany this document, you will find a short survey asking for key information on your proposed example. The survey asks for very brief information only to give us an initial idea of your work at this stage.

Please complete the survey and return it to Amanda Watkins: [ICT@european-agency.org](mailto:ICT@european-agency.org)

Please also use this contact if you have any questions about submitting an example for consideration, or the Practice Review project work.

The deadline for receipt of your information is **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September**.

Thank you for sending us your example for consideration. We appreciate your input to this important collaborative work.

### **Project Partners**

#### **UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education (IITE)**

The UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education was established as an integral part of UNESCO by the General Conference of UNESCO at its 29th session (November 1997) and is located in Moscow, Russian Federation. IITE's mission is to serve as a centre of excellence and provider of technical support and expertise in the area of ICT usage in education. Accumulated experience allows IITE to be a unique international expertise and resource centre, offering advice and guidance on reinforcing national potentials in ICT usage in education in the world.

Further information about the work of UNESCO-IITE can be found at: <http://iite.unesco.org/>

#### **European Agency for Development in Special Needs Education**

The Agency is an independent and self-governing organisation, established by member countries to act as a platform for collaboration between professionals and decision-makers at both national and European levels, on policies and practice in inclusive and special needs education. The Agency is maintained by the Ministries of Education in member countries and also supported by the European Institutions (Commission and Parliament).

Further information about the work of the Agency can be found at:

[www.european-agency.org](http://www.european-agency.org)