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## **EUROPEAN AGENCY FOR DEVELOPMENT IN SPECIAL NEEDS EDUCATION**

### **Part-time Staff member for the 'Teacher Education for Inclusion' project**

#### ***Outline Job Description***

The European Agency for Development in Special Needs Education is an independent and self-governing organisation established by our member countries to act as their platform for collaboration regarding the development of provision for learners with special educational needs. We are maintained by the Ministries of Education in the participating countries (member states of the European Union as well as Iceland, Norway and Switzerland) as well as supported by the European Union Institutions via the EU Lifelong Learning Programme.

Our short and long-term work programmes reflect both our member countries' priorities and agreed EU policies regarding learners with special educational needs and the promotion of their full participation within mainstream education and training. The topic of Teacher Education for Inclusion has been highlighted as being of top priority for countries. The topic is now scheduled as a major thematic project within the Agency work programme, beginning in 2009 and running until the end of 2011.

The focus for the project is on examining how all teachers - mainstream and specialist/special education teachers - are prepared to be 'inclusive'. The project will investigate the work of all teachers and consider all forms of teacher professional development opportunities - initial training, in-service, further training/education and continuous professional development.

The Agency is now looking for a suitably qualified and experienced person to join the team of staff who work on the project. The appointment will be for 3 days a week from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2009, initially for 1 year, but with the possibility to extend to three years.

Applicants for the position should be able to demonstrate extensive experience of:


- work in the special needs education / inclusion field;
- work within the teacher education sector leading to a clear understanding of relevant issues for teacher education for inclusion practice, as well as policy;
- international collaboration and development work.

Experience of conducting long-term research projects – preferably at the international level – is also required.

Candidates will ideally possess, or be working towards their PhD in a relevant subject.

The appointed candidate will be expected to provide written and verbal reports and presentations in English and so a demonstrable ability to deliver such information to deadlines is also required.

The selected candidate will work as part of the extended, international team within the Agency and it is therefore vital that the person is familiar with working in teams of



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individuals who work at a distance from each other and use different forms of on-line communication tools.

Flexible working hours and practice, as well as open minded and creative work attitudes are very important.

Specific tasks, duties and activities to be carried out will be negotiated and agreed at the time of the appointment of the successful candidate.

Further information is available from: Amanda Watkins, Assistant Director - Project Implementation: [amanda@european-agency.org](mailto:amanda@european-agency.org)

Formal expressions of interest should include a letter detailing the reasons for the application, as well as a detailed curriculum vitae specifying relevant experience and qualifications. These should be emailed to: [director@european-agency.org](mailto:director@european-agency.org) by 8<sup>th</sup> June 2009.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited for interview during Summer 2009.