



## ANETE GUTMANE - LATVIA

Thank you for having me here. I could say that I m a product of this profile – or a training bunny ... because first of all, the profile which I got to know about a year ago when the conference took place in Latvia - I was struggling - do I want to be a teacher or a special education teacher? I really didn't know what to do and then the conference came along and with easy words made me reflect this profile. This is how special education 'spoke' to me when I was studying for my bachelor degree.

I had some issues and didn't know if I wanted to be a teacher. The profile was the turning point, it was really long and not so interesting to me but after the discussions at the conference where the participants asked me questions and I was analysing the points, I realised that there are so many points that I can use, like what does it take to be a good teacher and after reading this it was a like a reflection of me, I want to be that.

Not only special education teachers but all teachers should reflect this profile because this project shows not to be afraid of expressions such as inclusion or Inclusive education. In my opinion it just underlines the basic things which every teacher should have, basic things such as you have to love children to become a teacher.

There is the practice that we talk about, this is what we need, the practice, because then we can see those theories and the things that we are taught about and we can see them in action. Another turning point was when I was in practice in my 3rd year of studying and realised that I wanted to be a special education teacher. I was in a private school where they practiced inclusive education and I had heard about inclusive education but hadn't seen it. It was interesting to me but when I saw the action and what happened, I then realised it and now I'm here, I'm getting my masters degree and becoming a special education teacher.

There is one big part of all of this, teachers and young people don't know how to think, how to set their mind and manage these things, how to see one point from different views. A really good example was from yesterday in my working group; I wasn't talking so much but I observed and this practice was invaluable. Many experts were talking about many things that I don't know about and this made me realise and analyse and think about many things from my country. What's happening to me and how I could reflect this and how important this is.

This is the way you should teach us - as maybe my professor who is here, does in her lectures, she provides us with many different ways of looking at these points. She shows us videos and gives us theories, and if she can't provide us with this practice in school she shows us videos where we can see this action, she gives us theory by her words and experiences. That is the way to work and that is what 'talks' to us. She is really the right person for this and I'm quite a big fan ...

I realised that experiencing theory brings practice to life and how you manage your work. This theory shows how to manage your work and how to prepare yourself for working with different children and their individualities because you have to teach them how to think and if you don't know how to set your mind... this document shows not only the profile for inclusive teachers but also the environment for how the education system should work. When I started to study education science, the professors were talking about things that I didn't understand, but when I was in practice I suddenly understood things - maybe already during the first year. My hope is that the profile of inclusive teachers will grow into a profile for all teachers like it's the basic thing of what you should do, not just to say that I'm an inclusive teacher, but I'm a teacher - and that means the things in the profile. This



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document shows me what I want to become, it helps me to think through things and analyse and makes me want to be a better teacher.

A big thanks that I can be here, this is an invaluable experience and this will maybe get me through my masters and perhaps end in a doctor degree.