Preamble

In relation to the use of ICT in education in Germany, there are standards given by the KMK (Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs); each Bundesland has its own way of implementing these standards. It can be said that everything is in flux at present. There are no automatic specific IT measures or solutions regarding inclusion. The aim for all Länder is to optimally prepare schools for handling heterogeneity, including in the use of ICT.

Therefore the reply from Germany consists of a number of sections, including information on examples of innovative practice from two Länder: Bavaria and Hamburg.

Digital Learning in Bavaria

In the context of the programme 'Digitales Lernen Bayern' (Digital Learning in Bavaria), which supports IT-based lessons in schools, the Bavarian Ministry of Education and Culture is carrying out the digital learning project from 14 September 2011 to 1 March 2014.

In co-operation with Staatsinstitut für Schulqualität und Bildungsforschung (State Institute for School Quality and Educational Research – ISB), Akademie für Lehrerfortbildung und Personalführung (Academy for Advanced Teacher Training and Personnel Management – ALP), and Institut für Film und Bild in Wissenschaft und Unterricht gGmbH (Institute for Film and Image in Science and Education – FWU), the programme offers:

- The Online Media Centre: Bavarian teachers and students are authorised to use films, media, etc., available in the centre at no charge.

- A Learning Management System to promote digital learning by providing software, with a particular focus on supporting and organising the students' learning processes.

- The mebis (Media Centre Bayern): a web portal for students and teachers that provides information, films, media, etc., for all school subjects. (www.mebis.bayern.de).

In the 2012/2013 school year, 90 schools (primary, secondary and special schools) took part in the 'Referenzschule für Medienbildung' project. The accompanying support started on 1 October 2012 and comprises teacher training, guidance, technical assistance, etc., for all participating schools.

To support inclusive settings, all concepts and offers:

- are accessible (adjustable font size, integrated reader function, etc.);

- provide information and suggestions concerning inclusive education and teaching in heterogeneous groups. 'Inclusion and media' is one of the portal's main topics;

- help teachers to provide learning material for their students online;

- provide a large quantity of media materials for all subjects.