



GISLE LARSEN - NORWAY

Thank you so much for that great introduction.

I think one of the Agency project managers said yesterday that this profile is like a baby. Making the baby, that's the fun part, everyone likes making the baby but when the baby is born and is supposed to be raised and be a part of society, in this case the European society, that's the hard work - raising this child and that's our job.

I'm currently teaching a group of 7th graders, 4 boys who need special education most of the time. They are included in some courses but we actually took them out of mainstream classes in other schools and brought them to our school so that we can give them a better opportunity to succeed better in life.

I have changed this presentation so many times because I think the last few days have been so interesting. The final draft of the profile document was so much easier to read than the previous one I got because there were so many words and it was so long, this is shortened down and it's more concrete, it has points that make it easier to use as criteria for teacher students.

So I have been thinking – where have I, during my years as an ITE student, where have I learnt the most about being a teacher. Yes, I have learnt from lectures, tests, thesis from studying for multiple choice tests and exams and so on but where have I learnt the most - from practice and experience. I think we need more emphasis on teachers' practice and make it a bigger and more important part of the ITE curriculum, I think this can help there. I think that this profile can play a big role in the teacher practice situations. I think we need to put inclusion on the agenda and make it a bigger part for the practice teacher.

Because we are sitting here and have all worked on this profile, in some ways some of you a lot longer than I have because I've been here for 2 days and got thrown into this. If I'd known this a couple of months ago I'd have been surprised to be sitting here in Brussels talking to a whole lot of experts - but because we are sitting here and working on this profile it means that inclusion needs to be a focus in every one of our countries, I know for a fact that we need it in our country in Norway and I think that many teachers and schools are afraid of the word inclusion - it means so much hard work. So I think we need a change and it has to start with the initial teacher education. This profile could work for students but I think it has a bigger potential as an educator for educators. That last one there I stole yesterday from the workshop session group 3, where someone said it has potential as an educator for educators, and it sparked me, it's true, so I stole it but nobody had trademarked it so...

In order to change you need facilitation from many areas - you need politicians and the state to facilitate for local politicians which has to facilitate for the schools who again has to facilitate for the teachers, who last but not least has to facilitate for the children. As a teacher you need to be a facilitator in many ways, academic with focus on the content and you need maybe more importantly working with special needs children, we need to focus on the social and the emotional aspect of the education of children. I think in some ways this profile could work as a facilitator, but in the end it's the teachers and the student teachers that have to want this because this will not work if we don't want it to work. If we want change and if we want to see inclusion in every classroom across Europe, this profile could be a facilitator for this to happen. We need to focus on the fact that it's a human right for a child to be included and to be a part of the society that she/he lives in. No matter what this person struggles with because in the end it all comes down to the fact that we all want to feel that we are not only a part of something but that we can



actually contribute in some way. You for instant have made me feel like that today by sitting here.

I'm young and Anete is even younger, you guys, you're old. We and the initial teacher education students all across Europe, we are the future and we are the ones that have to make this happen but we need help and help is in this room I think, I hope. So, to end this, I don't want to make it too long.

To end this I would like to thank everyone from the Agency for inviting me and making me feel like I'm a part of this. Thank you very much.