



Inclusive Education in Europe
Conference - 18 November 2013

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Inclusive Education in Europe

Key messages: putting theory into practice

Monday 18 November 2013, Brussels

The aims of the conference will be, first of all, to present what the European Agency for Development in Special Needs Education (European Agency) has done so far, as well as what it plans to do in the near future. Secondly, the conference aims to consider to what extent the European Agency's work supports countries in establishing and implementing inclusive education systems.

The conference comprises two parts. In the first part, the summary of the work conducted and the main results achieved by the European Agency until 2013 will be presented via a keynote presentation regarding the main issues to be taken into consideration as far as inclusive education is concerned.

Within the second part of the conference, five key messages will be presented and debated in groups. The purpose will not be to present projects, but to present and discuss, from different points of view, key transversal messages for supporting inclusive education that can be found in different projects conducted by the European Agency.

Key message one: 'As early as possible'

Detection and intervention as early as possible: the key role of assessment; positive impact of proactive measures; reduction of school drop-out rates; supporting transition measures between the different phases within education and from education to employment at an early stage.

Key message two: 'Inclusive education benefits all'

The positive educational and social impact of inclusive education: taking a learner centred approach, respect of differences, taking into account learners and families' views and wishes.

Key message three: 'Highly qualified professionals'

The importance of having highly qualified professionals in general, and teachers in particular; the requisite profile of teachers and other professionals – competences and attitudes; networking and co-ordination of professionals.



Key message four: 'Support systems and funding mechanisms'

The need for well established support systems and related funding mechanisms: clear roles for and co-ordination between services; adequate provision of financial support.

Key message five: 'Reliable data'

The important role played by data; real value of available data; benefits and limitations of data collection methods.



AGENDA

Monday 18 November

Time **Session**

9.00 – 11.30 **Plenary session**

9.00 – 9.30 Official opening

Per Ch Gunnvall, Chair of the European Agency for Development in Special Needs Education

Gaëlle Chapelle, Cabinet of Marie-Martine Schyns, Minister of Education, Belgium French Speaking Community

Micheline Scheys, Secretary General, Ministry of Education, Belgium Flemish Speaking Community

Moderator: Per Ch Gunnvall, Chair of the European

9.40 – 10.25 Keynote presentation on the topic of Inclusive Education

Diane Richler, Joseph Kennedy Jr. Foundation, International Fellow, Human Rights Advisory Board member of the Open Society Institutes

Questions

10.25 – 10.45 Break

10.45 – 11.25 Summary of the European Agency's work until 2013: looking forward

Cor J. W. Meijer, Director of the European Agency for Development in Special Needs Education

Comments and reflections

Frédéric Storme, EC Disability Support Group, Chair of the 'I See' Foundation

László Gábor Lovász, Member of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, United Nations



- 11.30 – 12.30** ***Working Groups' Sessions (first part)***
- Five working groups will run simultaneously, one working group per key message
- 12.30 – 14.00** Lunch at hotel restaurant OO!
- 14.00 – 15.30** ***Working Groups' Sessions (second part)***
- 15.30 – 15.45** Break
- 15.45 – 17.15** ***Plenary session***
- 15.45 – 16.20** Conference feedback and reflections
- Keynote speakers:
- Diane Richler*
Susan McKenney
Per Skoglund
Gerardo Echeita
Tom Parrish
Lani Florian
- Moderator: *Cor J. W. Meijer, European Agency*
- 16.20 – 17.15** Policy Panel: looking forward
- Representatives from the Ministries of Education and the European Commission:
- Gaëlle Chapelle, Cabinet of Marie-Martine Schyns, Minister of Education, Belgium French Speaking Community*
Pascal Smet, Minister of Education, Belgium Flemish Speaking Community
Genoveita Krasauskiene, Vice Minister of Education, Lithuania
Tadeusz Sławecki, Secretary of State, Poland
- Pierre Mairesse, Directorate General Education and Culture, European Commission*
- Moderators: *Per Ch Gunnvall, Chair of the European Agency*
Cor J. W. Meijer, Director of the European Agency
- 17.15** Closing of the conference



WORKING GROUPS' SESSIONS

Group 1: 'As early as possible'

Presentation: Susan McKenney, Twente University (The Netherlands)

Feedback on the presentation and the key message from:

- Nora Milotay, European Commission, Directorate General Education
- Sogol Noorani, Eurydice
- Filomena Pereira, Head of Special Needs Education Department, Ministry of Education and Science (Portugal)
- Zuzana Kaprová, National Institute for Education (Czech Republic)

Invited national experts: Nevenka Zavrl (Slovenia); Noëlle Pameijer (The Netherlands)

Discussion

Summary of the session

Moderator and co-moderator: Victoria Soriano and Anabel Corral, European Agency

Group 2: 'Inclusive education benefits all'

Presentation: Per Skoglund, National Agency for Special Needs Education and Schools (Sweden)

Feedback on the presentation and the key message from:

- Inmaculada Placencia, Deputy Head of Unit 'Rights of Persons with Disabilities', European Commission, Directorate General Justice
- Maria Bugeja and Jens Camilleri, young learners (Malta)
- Jacob Hess, Ministry of Education (Denmark)

Invited national experts: Fionnbarra Ó Murchú (Ireland); Georgia Papastavriniidou (Greece)

Discussion

Summary of the session

Moderator and co-moderator: Verity Donnelly and Morten Olstrup, European Agency

Group 3: 'Highly qualified professionals'

Presentation: Gerardo Echeita, Autonomous University of Madrid (Spain)

Feedback on the presentation and the key message from:

- Géraldine Libreau, European Commission, Directorate General Education
- Pablo Pineda and David Morales, Adecco Foundation (Spain)
- Marta Villar, EC Disability Support Group

Invited national experts: Simoni Symeonidou (Cyprus)

Discussion

Summary of the session



Moderator and co-moderator: Mary Kyriazopoulou and Simona D'Alessio, European Agency

Group 4: 'Support systems and funding mechanisms'

Presentation: Tom Parrish, American Institutes for Research (United States)

Feedback on the presentation and the key message from:

- Christian Bodewig, World Bank
- Linda Jordan, parent representative (United Kingdom)
- Guntis Vasilevskis, Head of National Centre for Education (Latvia)
- Kari Brustad, Director, Ministry of Education (Norway)
- Raffaele Ciambrone, Director, Ministry of Education (Italy)

Invited national experts: Alain Adams (Luxembourg); Witold Cyroń (Poland)

Discussion

Summary of the session

Moderator and co-moderator: Harald Weber and Marcella Turner-Cmuchal, European Agency

Group 5: 'Reliable data'

Presentation: Lani Florian, University of Edinburgh (United Kingdom)

Feedback on the presentation and the key message from:

- Diane Lalancette, OECD
- Gudni Olgeirsson, Ministry of Education (Iceland)
- Serge Ebersold, Researcher (France)
- Tiina Kivirand, Ministry of Education (Estonia)

Invited national experts: Stefan Erson (Sweden); Huguette McCluskey (Switzerland)

Discussion

Summary of the session

Moderator and co-moderator: Amanda Watkins and András Lénárt, European Agency