Overview of the Raising Achievement for All Learners (RA4AL) project

13th - 15th June 2012, Odense, Denmark
Raising Achievements for all learners is a key priority at European level (ET 2020 objectives) as well as at national level (2010 Country Survey: identified as a clear priority for countries for further investigation at European level).

Key Questions:

1 – What does the topic ‘Raising Achievements’ mean? Which achievements? What is the meaning of ‘raising’?
2 – What are the expectations in terms of which learners should be considered?
3 – The policy priorities clearly highlight the topic as a quality issue. What does quality mean?
4 – How can quality and raised achievements be identified?
Highlighted issues and topics:

- **Focus:** *all learners* and how we can use effective approaches that work with all learners. *Meaningful participation in the learning environment*, not learners’ specific needs.

- **Terminology:** *definitions* of ‘raising’ and ‘achievements’

- **Raising Achievement as a rights issue:** all learners’ right to access curriculum

- **Raising Achievement as a quality issue:** identification of the factors involved in quality education
Setting the scene

Highlighted issues and topics:

- *Academic and social aspects* of learning: communication and social skills are essential as academic knowledge.

- *How learning achievements can be effectively identified:* how can progress and achievement of learners be meaningfully measured?

- *The role of different actors in raising achievements:* raising the expectations of policy makers, teachers, parents and learners themselves
RA4AL project overview

- One-year project (December 2011- November 2012), supported under Commission LLP Comenius Accompanying Measures funding.
- The one-year project will be phase 1 of the Agency RA4AL project.

PROJECT AIM:
To address the need expressed by policy makers for more information on quality education in inclusive settings as a strategy for raising achievement for all learners by identifying:

- the issues that need to be explored
- strategies at the policy level that appear to be successful in raising achievement for all learners in inclusive settings.
RA4AL project overview

- RA4AL Conference (Odense, 13-15 June, 2012) with the participation of representatives from 3 key target groups, from 27 European countries:

  - Policy makers on general education
  - Policy makers on inclusive education
  - Researchers in inclusive education
CONFERENCE AIMS

- to explore initiatives and approaches that appear to be successful in improving the quality of education in inclusive settings

- to identify some factors that support the raising achievement of all learners to improve life chances and provide better opportunities for full participation in society

- to raise awareness of the benefits of European co-operation among policy makers and researchers
Expected Outcomes

- A clear rationale in relation to quality education in inclusive settings as a way to raise the achievement for all learners

- A synthesis of relevant information to support recommendations and key policy messages relating to raising achievement for all learners in national and European contexts

- (This will be used as the basis for phase 2 work by the Agency in a further thematic project)