



Pathways to Inclusion

NEWSLETTER 6

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1. Introduction

Dear readers,

Welcome to our sixth and final newsletter of the P2i project. This last issue will focus on the highlights of the final Pathways to Inclusion Conference– an event which successfully marked the closing of our three-year project. Additionally, we would also like to share with you our next steps specifically, the start of the follow-up project INVESTT which will focus on the inclusion of person with disabilities in the labour market.

Please feel free to contact us if you wish to receive more information about the project. For additional information about the project, please visit: <http://pathwaystoinclude.eu/>

We hope you enjoy reading our newsletter!



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Secretary-General
EASPD



Phil Madden
Chair SC on Education
EASPD



Goedele Avau
Project manager P2i
EASPD.

2. State of Play

2.1 The Final P2i Conference in brief

The right to inclusive and high quality education is universal and applies to all children, youth and adults, including those with disabilities. This was the key message which resonated throughout the closing P2i conference on the 13 and 14th of September, in Budapest. The title of the conference was "Inclusive education and learning: Challenges and Opportunities"-and the Conference confirmed there are still many of both!

Over 230 people attended- from 33 countries and from 3 continents. There were persons with disabilities, organisations representing persons with disabilities, parent and teacher organisations, politicians and decision makers, administrators, principals and staff from mainstream and special schools, teachers and staff from universities, student organisations, and social and educational service providers.

Throughout the 5 plenary sessions and 16 workshops of the conference, a great variety of experts and participants fostered a fruitful dialogue on the current situation of inclusive education in the different national contexts in terms of policies, practices and challenges.

A conference statement on inclusive learning –the Budapest Manifesto–was drafted during the final plenary session. The Budapest Manifesto is a follow-up of the Dublin Manifesto adopted 3 years ago. When amended following feedback, it will become EASPD's official position. It will be widely circulated to European, national and local organisations as an encouragement to work towards inclusion.

2.2 Highlights of the P2i conference

PRE-CONFERENCE PROGRAMME – STUDY VISITS:

The official start of the two-day conference was preceded by study visits to local kindergartens, schools and vocational training centres in Budapest and its neighbourhood. The aim of the field visits was to illustrate models of good practice as implemented in daily school activities. The school visits received positive feedback from the participants, who appreciated the generally positive attitude towards students with special educational needs and towards diversity, the model of 'co-teaching', the high quality of education and accommodation and the attention shown by the staff towards parents' concerns and insights.

PLENARY SESSIONS

The focus of the **first day of the conference** was on providing an overview of the most important initiatives and legal frameworks in the light of the paradigm shift from a medical model of disability towards a person-centred model. The findings of the research carried out during the P2i project were also presented. These include the **P2i Barometer Research** – an assessment tool that analyzes and compares the national situations in inclusive education for SEN students in selected European countries, and an analysis of the **Index for Inclusion** – the extent to which this self-evaluation tool aimed at supporting and assisting with the process of developing inclusive education practices, or other related tools are used and known in the partner countries.

- More information on the project's results can be found at: <http://pathwaystoinclude.eu/>

The **second day of the conference** tackled the topic of 'lifelong learning for all', from the importance of early intervention and support, to support given throughout compulsory education and then into adulthood. The proposal of a Manifesto on Inclusive Learning marked the closing plenary session of the conference.

- The full text of the Budapest Manifesto will be available at the end of December at: www.easpedu.eu and on www.pathwaystoinclude.eu

WORKSHOPS

The 16 different workshops organised during the 2 conference days covered a great variety of practical aspects concerning the development of inclusive education practices-including universal design and reasonable accommodation, assistive technology, finance and teacher training. The workshops provided a great opportunity for exchange of models of good practice and real dialogue amongst the participants.

The key messages of each workshop will be published in the final conference report which will be available at the end of October at: <http://pathwaystoinclude.eu/>

3. Next steps

3.1 The INVESTT Project has been approved!

The month of July brought along great news: the P2i follow-up project INVESTT has been approved by the European Commission!

The overall objective of INVESTT (INclusive Vocational Education and Specialised Tailor made Training) is to provide vocational schools with specific information and suggestions to guide all students, including those with disabilities, towards the open labour market. The project aims to achieve this through the development and implementation of a teaching programme in the mainstream educational system that will improve the inclusiveness of these settings and the employment of (especially) students with a disability into the open labour market.

In order to reach its aims, the following project outcomes are foreseen:

- **A strategy at European level** which will help practitioners to work towards a universal design in their own Vocational and Educational context (VET), enabling them to provide a specialized tailor-made training for all. This strategy will be based on research carried out in partner countries focusing on 2 key strategies of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: 'reasonable accommodation' and 'universal design';
- **A teaching programme**, including curriculum adjustments, inclusive teaching methods and a revision of the evaluation methods in each of the partner countries. The strategy and teaching programme will improve the inclusion of persons with disabilities into the regular vocational educational system, helping them to achieve the same qualification as other students and improving their transition from school to the labour market;
- **The further elaboration of the sustainable network of those committed to inclusive education** originally developed through the Pathways to Inclusion project;
- **The further development of the web-based knowledge centre** on 'Inclusive education for all' developed also through the P2i project.

If you wish to receive more information about the project, please contact: Goedele.avau@easpedu.eu

3.2 Training course: *Building the School for all: Moving towards an inclusive education in Salzburg, 21-27 September 2013*

Building the School for all – an inclusive education, a training course organised by a consortium of European organisations and universities partners in the “Pathways to inclusion” network, will take place next year, in Salzburg, Austria from 21 to 27 of September. The course will offer guidance and a structural framework for the further development and promotion of inclusive education, as well as a hands-on experience in the planning of such an approach. Specifically, the course will tackle:

- The state of play of inclusion in EU and UN, and implications for schools;
- Defining inclusive education;
- Curriculum development : universal design & reasonable accommodation;
- School visits;
- Competence profile of the inclusive teacher;
- Change strategies towards Inclusive Education;
- Transfer to the local situation;
- Design of a personal action plan.

The course targets school heads, middle management, educational guides and counsellors, inspectors and administrative staff willing to challenge their mindsets and to engage in a 7-days course to learn and discover with and from colleagues in an international setting the possible ways to move towards inclusive education.

The course will include both information and learning sessions, as well as discussion groups, peer group support and the chance for self reflection. The participants will be given the chance to set their individual learning goals and develop a work plan to be implemented in their school.

HOW TO APPLY?

If you want to register and apply for a grant it is essential to follow the following procedure:

1. Send a brief message with your contact details, preferably by e-mail to: Goedele.avau@easpd.eu;
2. You will be asked to send a participant information form;
3. You will then receive a ‘letter of acceptance’ from EASPD, to add to your grant application.
4. Request a grant application form from your National Agency. You can find the address on: http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-programme/national_en.htm
5. Send the application, together with ‘Letter of Acceptance’ to your National Agency.

The **deadline** for submitting the grant application to the National Agency is **30/04/2013**

For further information about the training course, please contact:

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Where to find more information: www.pathwaystoinclude.eu

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Lifelong Learning Programme

