



EMPOWERING INCLUSIVE TEACHERS
FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW

ABOUT EITTT

EiTTT (Empowering Inclusive Teachers for Today and Tomorrow) is a European strategic partnership project funded under the Erasmus+ KA2 Education Programme of the European Union.

Marino Institute of Education (MIE) leads this 30-month project which commenced in October 2016. MIE will work with partner organisations in Belgium (University Colleges Leuven-Limburg & Karel de Grote University College), Cyprus (Dimotiko Sxoleio Anthoupolis KA), Latvia (Rigas 45. vidusskola) and Finland (Lukkarin koulu). The project partners, who represent three teacher education institutions and three schools, share a commitment to inclusive education and an understanding of priorities to be addressed if inclusion is to become intrinsic to school practice.

PROJECT BACKGROUND



EiTTT is focused on the development of mainstream schools as inclusive learning environments for all learners, including those with special needs and disabilities; those from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds, and persons with a migrant background. The promotion of inclusive education is a key element of current EU education policy. However, as experienced educators, the project partners are motivated by an understanding that the effective implementation of this policy in school practice presents a considerable challenge to even the most experienced teachers. Our belief therefore, is that high

quality teacher education is vital, but not sufficient to the advancement of inclusion in schools.

With a view to facilitating learning for all in the diverse population of contemporary classrooms, we know that schools themselves must also be enabled to provide support structures that can facilitate teachers' inclusive practice. In this project consequently, we, as a cross-sectoral group of educators, will present an evidence-based argument in favour of the diversification of available resources to provide for such a whole-system response. We will exchange learning about what we believe are exemplary inclusive education practices in our respective teacher education institutions and schools, implement new learning arising from this exchange, and disseminate our learning nationally and transnationally to teacher educators, practising teachers, student teachers, school administrators and policy makers.

- **Name:** EiTTT (Empowering Inclusive Teachers for Today and Tomorrow)
- **Duration:** 30 months
- **Coordinator:** Marino Institute of Education (MIE), Ireland
- **Funding Programme:** Erasmus+ KA2 – Cooperation for Innovation and the exchange of Good Practices, Strategic Partnerships for School Education

For more information visit:
www.mie.ie/eittt

PARTNERS:

- Marino Institute of Education (MIE), Ireland
- Lukkarin koulu, Finland
- Karel de Grote University College, Belgium
- Dimotiko Sxoleio Anthoupolis KA, Cyprus
- University College Leuven-Limburg, Belgium
- Rigas 45. Vidusskola, Latvia



EMPOWERING INCLUSIVE TEACHERS
FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW



PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- 1. Highlight and address key challenges in advancing the inclusion agenda in schools:** The project team comprises teachers drawn from three schools (two primary and one secondary) and teacher educators employed in three teacher education institutions. The teachers are working in mainstream classes of considerable learner diversity while the teacher educators have responsibility for Inclusive Education (pre- and in-service teacher education) in their respective institutions. As an experienced, international, cross-sectoral group of educational practitioners, we share an understanding of the challenges involved in advancing the inclusive agenda in schools.
- 2. Highlight and address the well-documented inadequacies in teacher confidence and competence with regard to inclusive practice in Europe's classrooms:** Inclusive education inevitably rests on teacher commitment and capability. It requires that teachers hold appropriate attitudes and values regarding diversity in society and schools, as well as relevant knowledge and skills. As high quality teacher education is therefore a pre-requisite, one of the main objectives of the project group will be to share examples of, implement and disseminate learning about particular strategies which we believe are highly effective in teacher education for inclusive education.
- 3. Highlight and address the structural supports required in schools to facilitate classroom practitioners in their development of inclusive learning environments:** It is the view of this project team that if inclusive education is to become intrinsic to school practice, appropriate teacher education is a fundamental but insufficient requirement. We have been motivated to undertake this project by a conviction that the greatest challenge to the advancement of inclusion in schools is teacher resistance, and that this is rooted not just in inadequacies in teacher education, but also in lack of support structures in schools.
- 4. Highlight the necessary interdependence of teacher education practice and in-school support structures in advancing inclusive education:** We aim to draw attention to a range of currently disparate activities under way in our teacher education institutions and schools, which if applied cohesively could significantly advance inclusive education practice in schools.

For more information visit:
www.mie.ie/eitt

CONTACT DETAILS:

Dr Anne Ryan
Project Coordinator
Marino Institute of Education, Ireland
anne.ryan@mie.ie

