

Towards the Inclusive Classroom: Best Practice

The Towards the inclusive classroom course aims to help participants expand their knowledge and skills that relate to designing and managing the inclusive classroom and leads to a Level 7 EQC Certificate, accompanied by a Europass Certificate Supplement with 10 transferable ECVET points.

During this course, the participants will have the chance to focus on international best practices regarding one or more of the following topics:

Inclusion of people with special needs, problematic behavior and learning difficulties

Dealing with Roma students and other nomad communities

Facilitating gifted students

Reducing early school leaving

Participants will also visit and study a place of interest (e.g. ancient Messini, the historical center of Kalamata, etc.) and prepare online lessons or another “product” on a topic of interest. That way the course will, secondarily, marry inclusion with basic ICT skills and European culture and history.

Course Objectives

At the end of this course, participants will:

be familiar with key terminology regarding inclusive education

have actively engaged with state-of-the-art methods of teaching and living in the inclusive classroom

have actively engaged with class-management in the inclusive context

be familiar with peer teaching and collaborative learning methods

have improved their communicative competence in English;

have used technology to design lesson-plans or other activities

have increased motivation and satisfaction in their daily work

have improved their understanding of other European cultures

have developed a sense of European citizenship and identity through participating in a community of European teachers and trainers

shared experiences and best practices

be familiar with the Europass.

Methodology

The main aspect of the course is to promote collaboration between participants. Lessons will be held in our center’s classrooms and computer lab, as well as outside. Our approach is to base the learning process on practical rather than theoretical knowledge. The course is designed on active learning methods and, at the end of the course, each participant should be able to use the taught techniques effectively.

Preparation

Every participant will have to fill a questionnaire which helps the trainers to customize the course to better fit their needs.

Attendants will get instructions and material which will help them to be prepared for the courses needs.

Content

Structured study visits

During the course, we also organize study visits to local schools. Normally, we discuss with participants their needs and we organize study visits to cover these needs. Depending on the group, we organize from a minimum of one to a maximum of five study visits. Popular study visits include:

A special needs education school

A school for adults from disadvantaged backgrounds

A school with Roma mainstreaming classes

Vocational secondary and post-secondary schools

General primary and secondary schools

Each study visit is structured and accompanied by reflective activities. There is no extra cost for these study visits.

Outdoors learning

There are two outdoor learning activities: a gamified tour of the town and a visit to a local historical site. The onsite visit is accompanied by non-formal European history learning activities, as well as activities that link this history to the course topic. There is no extra cost for these activities.

Social programme

There is also an optional social programme for those interested. This programme may include an intercultural night, lunches and dinners at different restaurants, going out for a drink or coffee, or even an extra excursion – if there is time! These activities depend on participant needs and wants, and those participating in them will have to pay for what they choose to eat and drink. If there is an optional excursion, they will also have to pay van costs and any other expenses (e.g. museum tickets)

Follow up

The participants will get material which includes information about all the areas covered at the course, lesson plans, all the produced outcomes of the course, useful links and more.

The above material can be freely used by the participants at their school.