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Introduction

Based on the principles of Universal Design and Reasonable Accommodations embedded in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), INVESTT sets out to facilitate the inclusion of pupils with special educational needs (SEN) in the regular vocational education and training (VET) system, and support quality and innovation in the VET systems.

The project is divided in three phases at the end of which INVESTT will produce concrete innovative teaching programmes in each partner countries to include students with disabilities in regular VET systems, as well as a generalised European level strategy to help professionals in their own VET context. The project will also enhance the cooperation between institutions across Europe, through the development of a stakeholder network and a web-based knowledge centre (www.investt.eu).

If you would like any further information on this project, visit the website www.investt.eu or contact Tim Ghilain, timothy.ghilain@easped.eu.



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State of Play3rd Project Meeting in Gent

The 3rd INVESTT project meeting was hosted in November by the Scheppers Instituut, nearby Ghent, Belgium. In between the discovery of this beautiful city and anecdotes on the architecture, the partners took stock of the development of the project. National schools have started in September to implement Universal Design and Reasonable Accommodations in their teaching



programme, and each country presented its unique implementation in their own context. Fruitful discussions emerged on the diverging legal frameworks and mentalities in the different countries, and the partners got much closer to each other, developing an impetus of cooperation.

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A new form of vocational training in social care

The Austrian school-system has to open its doors for vocational trainings for disabled people. This was signed in an International contract in 2008.

The SOB of Caritas in Salzburg, “Schule für Sozialbetreuungsberufe der Caritas der Erzdiözese Salzburg”, is part of a transnational EU-project, called INVESTT (Inclusive Vocational Education and Specialised Tailormade Training). The EU plans to launch the creation of inclusive vocational trainings throughout Europe with this project.



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Inclusive education at the Scheppers Institute

In the Scheppersinstitute from Wetteren we have been working on the INVESTT project with the headmaster, the pedagogical coordinator and the third grade coordinator.



In the beginning of the school year we invited stakeholders and introduced the programme to them.

Next, in the course of October we've introduced the project to the teachers of our aim classes. They got information on the project, on universal design and on reasonable accommodations. At the end of the session they were asked to make a lesson plan, focusing on 'the why' of the lesson. This means that they should clearly consider the motivation of the pupils and take into account whatever limitation the pupils have.

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IOP-logg : a new tool in the work with SEN students



In Rogaland we introduce a new tool in the work with the IEP for the SEN-students. The tool is called the IOP-logg, an IEP-log

The work with the tool was started by Einar Hansen, now working in Åkrehamn, an upper secondary school in the north of the region. Here he is a head of department within the special education. In his work, he saw the need for a more professional attitude towards the work of teachers in special education. In his opinion, there are many teachers who do a great job in their daily work with the students, but there are less effort put into the formal part of the work, such as writing IEP and reporting the work. He wanted to do something about that. He started thinking within what he calls the golden circle: The WHY, the HOW and the WHAT

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From integration to inclusion in Slovenia

The role of the teacher is one of the vital ones in achieving inclusive education. With regard to the fact that the school system in Slovenia is organised in a manner that the training of teaching staff is divided into 2 groups: one part is trained to become “regular” teachers, whereby the other part is to be “special” teachers, teachers do not operate with required knowledge in SEN

Education, their awareness on the importance of it is

also questionable. Teachers themselves expressed their wish for assistance and support especially in working with students with behavioural problems. Teachers also notice lower learning abilities and problems with concentration, and lower motivation for studying not only with SEN but also with the whole generation of students.



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Next Steps

After a first period of research and evaluation, with the production of a first strategy and research paper, INVESTT has now entered its second phase. The Universal Design and Reasonable Accommodations theoretically developed are now put in practice in one school in each partner country, Austria, Belgium, Norway and Slovenia.

The teaching programmes will be continuously evaluated through a cyclic process of research and action. The improvement learned from this second phase will be implemented in the second school year, starting in September 2014. At the end of the third phase, the Universal Design and Reasonable Accommodations will again be fine-tuned and the European strategy will be finalised.

The partners will soon meet again close to Stavanger, Norway, in April 2014, while the INVESTT results will be presented during the final conference, held in Salzburg in October 2015.

Other News

Together is better

“A collaboration toolbox to build a school for all - Together is better” is a Comenius Multilateral Partnership. The general aim of this project is to promote inclusive education and lifelong learning for ALL learners. Evolving towards a “School for All” involves changes and modifications in content, approaches, structures and strategies. This change requires support for all partners in education. ...”

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We connect now

The website [We Connect Now](#) is dedicated to uniting people

interested in rights and issues affecting people with disabilities, with particular emphasis on college students and access to higher education and employment issues. One of the goals of this site is to help college students with disabilities to succeed in their studies by getting the information and support they need, both through resources, links, blogs latest news, studying existing laws and regulation and through personal contacts. Through this website people can also share and read other people's stories as a source of support and comfort.

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Teaching for diversity“Handicap doesn't mean inability” is the motto of a new extensive teaching tool aimed at schools on different levels in the Czech Republic. “Teaching for Diversity” is an innovative concept for learning combining electronic applications with printed material. The project was launched in 2009 and finished in 2012 under the support of the Czech Ministry of Education within the operational programme Investment into Education Development. You can find out more on their [interactice website](#).

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