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E-COURSE: tools to foster the inclusion of migrant children in primary school

Nowadays, one of the main challenges of educational systems in Europe is the inclusion of students with a migrant background in school. Very often migrant students tend to have lower educational performance and are more likely to leave school early compared to native children. Starting the inclusion process since the first phases on their educational path is crucial to counteracting on these phenomena. Schooling and support of educational achievement are ones of the best, most effective migrant integration strategies.

The E-COURSE team has been working to support teachers and school leaders in being able to better managing multicultural school

environments and in promoting interculturalism among their students.

Primary schools in Germany, Greece, Italy, France and Cyprus have been actively involved in the piloting of the support tools developed as part of the project. We have developed tools aimed at fostering the capacities of schools in addressing the challenges and opportunities posed by multiculturalism and in fostering the development of inclusive school environments.

E-COURSE School Support Platform

Teachers and schools involved in the piloting of the [School Support Platform](#) have considered it a useful supporting tool in building their capacities in managing multicultural classes, communicating with the students' families and supporting newly arrived migrant and refugee students.

They have shown high motivation in using the platform, which they consider a valuable tool because it allows an instant support to students

also outside the school hours and facilitates the communication between school and families.

A greater participation of the families in the school life is one of the most crucial aspect in favouring the inclusion of the students. For this reason, the platform has also sessions dedicated to parents and families such as *Useful contacts & info*. In this session, families of migrant and refugee students can find information on the school system of the receiving countries.

The platform hosts also the training modules for teachers with learning and training material for fostering their competences in working in multicultural classes.

Methodology for the elaboration of school policies on diversity

Active and responsible citizenship means embracing equality and democracy, and developing key attitudes such as openness, open-mindedness, tolerance, as well as respect for diversity and human rights. Schools should be in a position to create the conditions for all children and school staff to promote these skills and intercultural learning.

To support schools in achieving this objective, we have developed a methodology for the elaboration and implementation of school diversity policies and action plans. The methodology is aimed at guiding schools in developing action plans to foster intercultural dialogue and to promote the development of inclusive school environments.

The schools that have applied the methodology during the piloting phase are motivated in continuing to use the school policy and the related action plans developed.

Final meeting and conference in Athens

We met in Athens for our last meeting. It has given us the opportunity to share results and experiences about our national activities, challenges and good practices of this two-year journey.

We shared the feedbacks received by the schools involved and in all countries teachers have showed high interest in further training on managing diversity as well as on tools supporting the development of intercultural environments.

On the 21st of September, KMOP has organised the final conference of the project in Thessaloniki. Over 140 participants attended the event, including university professors, seniors' researchers, primary and secondary teachers, but also NGOs executives working in the field of intercultural education.

It has been the occasion to present the findings, activities and results of the two-year path. The audience had active participation, addressing questions and expressing several opinions on the issue of healthy inclusion of migrants, refugees and newly arrived students in the educational system.

Further information

[E-COURSE – Enhancing the Participation and Learning Performance of Migrant and Refugee Children in Primary School Education](#) – is a project co-funded by the [Erasmus+ programme, Key Action 2: Strategic Partnerships for school education](#). The project aims at enhancing the professional development of teachers and school leaders in dealing with migrant and refugee students as well as supporting schools to facilitate the inclusion and success of students with a migrant background.

The project involves 8 organisations: [IMA](#) (Coordinator, Germany); [KMOP](#) (Greece); [FOUR ELEMENTS](#) (Greece); [Canary Wharf Consulting LTD](#) (UK); [CARDET](#) (Cyprus); [ESHA](#) (Netherlands); [Pistes Solidaires](#) (France); [CESIE](#) (Italy).

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