

Teresa

Inclusive Education: What role for the EU in the way forward?

8th June 2020 14h00- 15h30 via Zoom

Context

High quality inclusive education systems do not just support academic achievement, they also promote the full personal and social development of learners. As highlighted in the recent Council Resolution on education and training in the European Semester, education is essential for future sustainable growth, competitiveness and employment as well as the development of key competences. Crucially inclusive education systems enable us to **better embrace our diverse societies**, while enabling all learners **to develop their personality, talents and creativity to their fullest potential** as well as **fully participate in society**.

Despite the benefits of inclusive education, **access to mainstream education is still far from being the reality for many learners with disabilities**, including those with an intellectual disability across Europe. Via its research, into the state of inclusive education in Europe, the IE+ project has identified a number of common barriers preventing the realisation of inclusive education. These barriers include: the prevalence of poor attitudes towards disability and inclusion; the persistence of the medical model of disability; the continuation of two simultaneous education systems (both mainstream and segregated) as well as lack of hard data to monitor the progress of inclusion.

While education remains a competence of Member States, via its initiatives and funding programmes, **the EU plays a key role in supporting the realisation of inclusive education across Europe**. This event will bring together EU representatives, civil society and those working in the field of education, to discuss the way forward for inclusive education and how **together a high-quality inclusive education can become a reality for all learners**.

Debate Aims

- Share the national experiences of inclusive education
- Discuss the way forward towards inclusion with all stakeholders
- Share IE+ recommendations for EU policy makers

Programme

Time

14h00	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome and introduction by Mr Luk Zelderloo, EASPD Secretary General
14h05	Introduction to the IE+ project and presentation of research results <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Rachel Vaughan, IE+ Project Coordinator, EASPD

<p>14h15</p>	<p>Barriers to inclusive education: Poor attitudes towards disability and inclusion and Working in silos</p> <p>Moderator: Mr Timothy Ghilain, Policy Officer, EASPD</p> <p>Discussion: What is the Role of the EU in the way forward?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MEP Monica Silvana González • Ms Irene Bertana, COFACE Families • Miguel Valles, CECD Mira Sintra <p>Q&A</p>
<p>14h45</p>	<p>Barriers to inclusive education: The continuation of segregated special education</p> <p>Moderator: Mr Milan Šveřepa, Director, Inclusion Europe</p> <p>Discussion: What is the Role of the EU in the way forward?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative of UNIA/ University of Gent • MEP Alexis Georgoulis TBC • Representative of DG Employment, Affairs and Social Inclusion, European Commission • MEP Stelios Kypouropoulos <p>Q&A</p>
<p>15h15</p>	<p>Conclusions and presentation of IE+ Policy Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Rachel Vaughan, IE+ Coordinator, EASPD