

One year on: inclusive education and COVID-19

Wednesday 10th March 2021

14h – 15h30 CET, via Zoom

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Context

For more than a year now, the COVID-19 pandemic created a new reality for EU societies, in all their aspects, including education. One year ago, many governments closed schools, and students had to continue their education from home. The alternation of education in presence and long-distance through digital learning platforms and tools have become the new reality for students and teachers.

In many cases this led to an increased exclusion of pupils with disabilities. Home and online schooling has brought new challenges to learners with special needs and their families, with the need for additional support and problems linked to inaccessible content and platforms. This first year of pandemic intensified the existing inequalities, with visible differences in the access to quality education depending on the geographical areas, schools, teachers, families of origin.

On the other hand, for learners with disabilities who do not always have access to education in mainstream settings, online learning increased the possibility to access to new opportunities. Support services had to adapt to this new situation to support the access to education for children and adults with disabilities.

This webinar will bring together support service providers, family organisations and other stakeholders to present and discuss:

- The state of play for the access to education for learners with disabilities in different EU countries.
- How education support services adapted to meet the needs of learners and their families while home schooling.
- How support services can help learners and their families as schools begin to re-open within the confines of COVID-19 lockdown measures.
- The key actions that must be taken to ensure that education and long-distant learning platforms are fully inclusive in the future.

Draft Programme

14h00	<p>Welcome and Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Miguel Valles, CECD Mira Sintra
14h10	<p>Moderator: Irene Bertana, EASPD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annemie Jannes, Catholic Education Flanders, Belgium • Katri Hänninen, KVPS, Finland • Adriana Barlogova, Tenenet, Slovakia • Camille Roux, COFACE Families Europe • Barbara Rand, European Platform for Investing in Children (TBC)
15h00	<p>Questions and Answers with Participants</p>
15h20	<p>Concluding Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • James Crowe, EASPD President (TBC)