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I am here too

Minutes of meeting

Venue:	LTTA Berlin / Germany
Date:	29/04/2024 – 03/05/2024
Time	10:00 – 17:00
Meeting Number:	3

17 eager participants from Turkey, Malta, Italy, and Germany came together for the first Learning, Teaching, and Training Event (LTTA), which took place in the energetic city of Berlin. From April 29 to May 3, 2024, this five-day event has been carefully planned to promote collaborative learning and creative approaches to inclusive education.

Project Objectives and the Target Group

The target group comprised seventeen (17) committed educators with varying backgrounds who had a common goal of promoting inclusive education. Through experiential learning and collaborative learning, participants acquired important knowledge and useful techniques to enhance their instruction. The initiative aims to develop inclusive students' social adaption abilities and provide educators with the tools and strategies they need to guarantee that education reaches every person equitably.

A) Meeting attendees

-Malta (4 Participant): George Farrugia, Moira Galea, Adriana Vassallo, Stefan Attard

-Germany (5 Participant): Dr. Kemal Işık, Özlem Coskun, Arda Işık, Eylem Yürekli Can , Dr. Susam Dündar Işık

-Türkiye (4 Participant): : Mediha Güleç, Zeliha Ertem, Rüştü Gedik, Cavit Tok

-Italy (4 Participant): : Melfa Cinzia, Gaetano Chiarenza, De Marco Donatella, Giuseppina Montella

First LTTA Report: Creating Inclusive Education (ARSU Lifelong Learning and Development Academy Germany e.V., Berlin)

The inaugural Learning, Teaching and Training Event (LTTA), hosted by ARSU Lifelong Learning and Development Academy Germany e.V., took place in Berlin between 29 April and 3 May 2024. This live meeting brought together 17 special participants from Türkiye, Malta and Italy. and Germany. The event, designed to promote collaborative learning and innovative methods in inclusive education, lasted five days.

Aims and Target Group of the Project

LTTA targeted a diverse group of seventeen educators united by their commitment to advancing inclusive education. The event focused on immersive and collaborative learning experiences, equipping participants with essential knowledge and practical tools. The main aim of the project is to improve the social integration of students in inclusive environments and to empower educators with the necessary skills and strategies to ensure education is accessible and equitable for all students.

Throughout the session, participants participated in a series of workshops and discussions that emphasized the creation of inclusive classroom environments and the adoption of pedagogical approaches that meet diverse learning needs. The exchange of ideas and best practices between educators from various education systems added a rich dimension to the learning experience.

LTTA serves as a critical platform for building a community of educators who are passionate about making education inclusive and effective for every student. ARSU Lifelong Learning and Development Academy Germany e.V. It continues to contribute significantly to the development of inclusive education practices across Europe.

Day 1: Examining Trends in Disability

The voyage started with a thorough analysis of disability models in the context of special education, covering societal as well as individual/medical viewpoints. Identifying obstacles to inclusion and learning in schools, comprehending diversity, and coming up with workable solutions were all topics of intense debate among the participants. Learning was enhanced by practical activities including group discussions and practical exercises. Along with taking in Berlin's rich cultural diversity, participants also visited historical and touristy sites.

Day 2: Making Use of ICT to Participate

A lively discussion about using information and communication technology (ICT) to support inclusive learning settings took place on the second day. The school community's joint efforts to promote an inclusive culture and assist student achievement were emphasized. During the event, participants had the opportunity to visit the iconic Reichstag building, the esteemed seat of the German Bundestag. This architectural marvel not only serves as the headquarters of Germany's federal parliament but also stands as a symbol of the nation's history and democratic resilience. The visit provided an enriching experience, linking the themes of governance and inclusivity explored during the LTTA.

Day 3: Contemplating Growth

A tour to Berlin's Pestalozzi-Schule Special Education School was one of the program's highlights; it gave participants insightful knowledge about other teaching methods and evaluation techniques. In order to promote advancement, participants explored creative role modeling tactics and reflective practices. A interesting journey to the charming city of Potsdam marked the end of the day, enhancing the intellect and spirit.

Day 4: Handling Bullying Among Peers

The fourth day, which was devoted to creating an environment of respect and empathy, was centered on taking preventative action against bullying by peers. In sessions led by child psychologists, participants learned practical communication techniques and methods for raising emotional intelligence. The culmination of practical exercises designed to improve wellbeing and foster a feeling of community was a trip to the Futurium museum.

Day 5: Gaining Compassion

On the last day, participants were guided through practical exercises centered around the subject of deep empathy, which helped them to build empathy and get a deeper understanding of others. Enlightening conversations on surmounting limiting ideas and psychological reversal cleared the path for individual development. A heartfelt Certificate Ceremony honoring the common path of growth and learning marked the end of the day.

Resolution

The first LTTA in Berlin gave educators the tools they needed to build inclusive classrooms where every student could succeed by acting as a catalyst for transformational learning and teamwork. Along with their newly acquired knowledge, participants also bring a fresh feeling of purpose to their home institutions—supporting inclusive education.

Benefits of the Project:

Enrolling in the 1LTTA program of the “I HERE TOO” initiative provided participants a holistically transforming journey towards progress and signified a paradigm change in education. Not only did the participants' intercultural abilities significantly increase, but their language ability also showed substantial improvement. This improvement demonstrates the level of experiential learning that the program supports, surpassing that of regular language classes in their own countries.

Beyond participant growth, the "I' HERE TOO" initiative is crucial in expanding the worldwide reach of the education sector, encouraging global citizenship, and fostering cross-cultural understanding. Through the provision of unique resources, curriculum, and creative teaching styles, the initiative helped to raise educational standards. The project encourages a common commitment to European ideals and raises knowledge of Europe. This fosters communication and coherence throughout Europe, making the continent more peaceful and cohesive. This project encourages people to actively participate in democratic life and civil society, going beyond personal enrichment to help societal growth and development. Additionally, the program raised participants' knowledge of environmental issues and pushed them to take up more sustainable behaviors.

By providing participants in the "I' HERE TOO" initiative with skills to oppose prejudice and advance inclusive communities, it has also encouraged a culture of inclusion and equality. Participants in Learning, Teaching, and Training Activities (LTTA) get enhanced digital literacy, are exposed to the newest digital technology, and are encouraged to innovate in educational settings.

Organizations that took part received assistance in creating inclusive teaching strategies, catering to a range of learning requirements, and guaranteeing equitable access to education for everyone. Fundamentally, by emulating the spirit of creativity and inclusion in education, the "I' HERE TOO" initiative has acted as a catalyst for social solidarity, global citizenship, and scholastic achievement.

Dr. Kemal Isik

ARSU Lifelong Learning and Development Academy Germany e.V., Berlin, President

