

**The experience of incluD-ed Network:
promoting inclusive education in Europe**

**High Level Meeting on Disability
Parallel work session II “Inclusive Education- doing away
with barriers”**

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Presentation content

I. includ-ed network as a “multi-stakeholder” and “multi-instrument” advocacy experience promoting inclusive education in Europe- a contribution to doing away with barriers.

- Characteristics
- Mission, objectives
- Main activities and milestones

II. Messages for the future of inclusive education in Europe.



European Network on Inclusive Education & Disability



European Union
European Social Fund
Investing in jobs and skills

The European Network on Inclusive Education and Disability, includ-ed:

- Transnational Cooperation initiative
- led by Fundación ONCE
- in the framework of the Spanish Operational Programme “Fight against Discrimination 2007-2013” (running until 2015)
- co-funded by the European Social Fund



Fundación ONCE is based in Spain, founded by the National Organization of the Spanish Blind (ONCE) and aimed at improving the quality of life and social inclusion of people with all types of disabilities, and their families, with a special focus on education, training, employment and universal accessibility of goods, services and environments.

I. includ-ed motivation

Born in 2009 with full activity since 2011, based on:

- The concern about the disadvantages of people with disabilities in education.
- Education as a pre-condition to employability, participation in the labour market and social inclusion.

Aligned with key instruments, policies and initiatives:

- The UNCRPD (esp. art. 24 and 27)
- The European Disability Strategy 2010-2020
- Europe 2020 for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth
- SF for European Cooperation in Education and Training (ET2020)
- EU and national policies to tackle youth unemployment
- Key demands by the European Disability Forum

I. Mission and key working topics

Three fold mission:

1. To build a European *multi-stakeholder community* concerned in fostering inclusive education.
2. To promote, identify, disseminate and exchange *good practices* and resources related to inclusive education and people with disabilities across Europe.
3. To *influence EU and national policies* to encourage an active and inclusive focus in education systems.

Four key working themes in connection with ESF premises:

- Secondary Education
- University and higher levels of education
- Transit to adult life and the labour market
- New technologies for inclusive education

I.1. includ-ed Community-Network of networks

4 Founding partners (ES, FR, FIN, CZ)



6 Associated Members

- queraum. cultural and social research (AU)
- FIRAH International Foundation of Applied Disability Research (FR)
- The University of Akureyri (ICE)
- Inclusion Ireland (IRL)
- Association RENINCO (RO)
- CSIE - Centre for Studies on Inclusive Education (UK)

Local Promoting Groups (LPG)

More than 100 organizations
involved

“Virtual community”

Over 150 experts, 26 countries
Over 40 entities, 18 countries

1.2. Identification and dissemination of good practices

“Things are possible and there are people and organizations working and making efforts. Let’s visibilize them”

- **Good practice criteria:** impact, innovation, trasferability, sustainability, participation and evaluation.
- **Good practice complilation:** Over 50 good practices from 27 countries; coming from over 250 organizations www.includ-ed.eu
- **Ongoing study “The quality factors of inclusive education in Europe: an exploration:** Over 60 schools from Spain, France, Finland, Czech Republic, UK, Ireland, Austria and Iceland.
- **Study visits:** Helsinki, Paris to come.

I.3. Policy Influence: more inclusive education in Europe

- Conference “*A Dialogue on Inclusive Education and Disability in Europe*” at the European Parliament in Brussels (9 April 2014).
- *Statement* on promoting the development of inclusive education systems within the EU: *Written Declaration* now in process.
- Elaboration and dissemination among relevant EU institutions of *position papers* on EU policies related to education and disability.
 - OECD PISA and PIAAC Programmes, Erasmus, U-Multirank, Accessibility of Public Sector Bodies’ Websites, Consultation on EU2020, EU Disability Strategy and education objectives, Mobility Card...
- Support in Parliament questions to the Commission, meetings with EU institutions personalities, participation in events and conferences.

II. Key Messages for inclusive education (1)

STATEMENT on Promoting Inclusive Education Systems in Europe

IncluD-ed calls on the development of inclusive education systems by Members States that:

- enable early special educational needs detection mechanisms for **qualified early and personalized support**;
- establish mechanisms that facilitate **transitions** between the different stages of both education and employment;
- establish a **framework of services** that supports inclusive education, particularly for students that require high-level support;
- promote and support participation of students with special educational needs in **post-compulsory education and university**;
- enhance **universally accessible curricula** for lifelong learning and **accessibility of ICT** in an educational context;
- reinforce **teacher training** to ensure quality inclusive education;
- monitor progress, collect reliable **data** and best practices.

II. Key Messages for inclusive education (2)

Some final ideas for the future...

- **Need of indicators, specially connected to EU 2020.**
- **More participation of students with disabilities in mobility programmes**
- **Promote participation of people with disabilities in STEM and entrepreneurship, with a special focus on woman and girls with disabilities.**

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Thank you!

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