

Inclusive learning environment: You, me and everybody

Summary

- Oddemarka lower secondary school is seeking European partners for a Comenius partnership project focusing on an inclusive learning environment. By inclusive we mean that every pupil should feel included regardless of sex, religion, sexual orientation, handicaps, learning difficulties, social disadvantage. We believe that a pupil's well-being is essential for learning, and that an inclusive environment increases the well-being of all pupils.
- The target group are pupils aged 12-16

Motivation

Oddemarka lower secondary school believes in the importance of working for a more inclusive learning environment. . We believe that a pupil's well-being is essential for learning, and that an inclusive environment increases the well-being of all pupils. Our schools has anti-bullying strategies and programs, programs to better self-esteem and well-being for individual pupils and strategies to put focus on and improve pupils tolerance and collaboration skills. Improving equality and inclusive approaches to learning is a goal of the Comenius program, and for many European countries. It is also high on the Norwegian national school agenda. A national act, *The pupils working environment act*, clearly states the pupils rights to a good psycho-social environment and emphasis the importance of an inclusive learning environment.

Oddemarka School believes that exchange of experiences between schools in Europe and collaboration to develop and improve the learning strategies will help the schools achieve a more inclusive learning environment and thus improving the schools results.

Objective

The objective of the project is to improve and further develop the participating schools' strategies and methods to achieve a better inclusive learning environment through the exchange of experiences and strategies. The different strategies and program will be implemented in the classroom and then evaluated. The pupils will be involved in the experience sharing and evaluation.

Expected results of the project:

- Improve pupils tolerance and ability to better appreciate differences between people they meet in school and the wider society

- increase acceptance for adapted and/or special education
- Strengthened pupil awareness of their responsibility for their own and others well-being and self esteem
- Strengthened digital competence and language skills
- Providing the schools with improved strategies and programs for a more inclusive learning environment

Project activities

The project will focus on following phases:

- Information: Exchange of information about respective national school systems, information about chosen strategies for an inclusive learning environment and how pupils are involved
 - Communication by email
 - Mobility 1 (Meeting): Presentation between partner schools about their different approaches and strategies to an inclusive learning environment.
- Best practice: Exchange of experience on the chosen strategies for inclusive learning environment and pupil involvement
 - Communication by email
 - Mobility 2 (Meeting): presentation between the partner schools and discussion of the presentation. Participation in real classroom activities at the host school.
 - Involving pupils in sharing experiences through social media/Wikis
- Evaluation: Assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the different strategies. Possible recommendation on how strategies may be improved.
 - Communications of reports by the partner schools by email
 - Mobility 3 (Meeting): presentation of results, discuss and agree on recommendation
 - Testing: Possible testing and implementation of some of the proposed recommendations of the partners

Our institution

Oddemarka School is a lower secondary school with approx. 450 pupils from age 12 to 16, and about 51 staff members. It is located in Kristiansand, Southern Norway. Oddemarka School would especially like to cooperate with schools that already have experience in working with Comenius projects and who are interested in working with inclusive learning environment.

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