

Designing and supporting inclusive practices in Higher Education – the InclusiveHE project

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Inclusive Education is a key priority for the European Commission and for Europe in general. In 2015, European Higher Education Area (EHEA)'s ministers reaffirmed their commitment to the social dimension of higher education, with the objective to achieve by 2020 an EHEA where "higher education is contributing effectively to build inclusive societies" (Yerevan Communiqué 2015) . However, the 2018 Process Implementation Report concluded that equal access and completion of Higher Education is far from being a reality and that further action is required (European Commission/EACEA/Eurydice, 2018) . The need for higher education staff training and the provision of concrete tools to address diversity and inclusion leading to more inclusive teaching and learning is evident and further actions are needed at both national and institutional level to address this issue, fostering exchange of experiences and peer-learning.

The InclusiveHE project seeks to contribute to achieving Inclusive Higher Education in Europe by raising awareness on inclusive policies and providing tools and guidelines to develop inclusive practices in Higher Education. The partnership brings together universities, research centres and education experts from Belgium, Cyprus, Finland, Latvia and Romania, to develop a set of tools and resources:

- A practical and innovative toolkit for administrators and policymakers at Higher Education Institutions, to support them in developing and monitoring inclusive policies and practices.
- A training course for learning designers, academics and university support staff on the design of inclusive education programmes.
- An E-learning platform and MOOC on inclusive practices for academics and support staff, in line with EU policies and HE needs. The MOOC will include hands-on activities to empower academics to design and implement inclusive education programmes.

The consortium works hand in hand with several Higher Education Institutions and stakeholders in partner countries and all over Europe to make sure tools and resources are developed in accordance with their needs and experience. In this respect, InclusiveHE is hoping to develop exchange of experience and peer learning between universities and Higher Education stakeholders.

Topic: Diversity and inclusion in Higher Education: what we have and what we need