

BTUTOR

Teachers' upskilling aiming at a holistic inclusivity in learning



The Teacher Academy for Inclusive Education

Call: [ERASMUS-EDU-2021-PEX-TEACH-ACA](#)
Project Number: [101056515](#)



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Word from the TUTOR team

Dear Readers,

We're thrilled to welcome you back to the third edition of the TUTOR Newsletter. As we embark on this journey together, let's take a moment to celebrate our achievements and look forward to the exciting ventures ahead. Join us as we offer a glimpse into the captivating initiatives on our horizon.

- In this edition, we're excited to share insights from our 3rd Transnational Partner Meeting held in Vienna, Austria. This gathering provided a platform for consortium members to engage in critical discussions, assess our progress, and outline strategies for the road ahead. From presenting key findings from our Training Needs Analysis Report to discussions on curriculum development and dissemination efforts, the meeting was incredibly productive, setting the stage for impactful advancements in inclusive education.
- Additionally, the recent TUTOR Information Day in Vienna witnessed dedicated educators exploring the domains of inclusion and professional development, paving the way for a bright future in education.
- Moreover, we're proud to unveil the results of our exhaustive research efforts with the release of the Existing Status Report and Training Needs Analysis Report. These comprehensive documents shed light on the current state of inclusive practices in secondary education across partner countries and offer key recommendations to foster more equitable learning environments. With findings emphasizing fragmented implementation and the significance of professional development, educators are well-positioned to spearhead the creation of equitable learning environments.
- Furthermore, our TUTOR Ambassadors initiative continues to gain momentum, with dedicated individuals championing our mission within their professional networks and communities. From Ireland to Greece and Turkey, the selected ambassadors bring a wealth of experience and expertise to our collective efforts in promoting inclusive education, driving change in their communities and beyond.
- In recent months, we successfully launched our Facebook Live Event series, underscoring our commitment to engaging the educational community in vital conversations about inclusivity. From LGBTQI+ inclusivity to multiculturalism in secondary schools, these events have sparked thought-provoking discussions and promoted inclusivity in educational settings.
- Lastly, we're thrilled to announce the commencement of our Advisory Group discussions, marking another significant milestone in our journey. Comprising experts from partner countries, the Advisory Group will play a crucial role in shaping our policy recommendations and ensuring their alignment with the needs of secondary education teachers and VET/FET trainers.
- As we continue on our journey, we remain steadfast in our commitment to fostering inclusive education. Stay tuned for more updates and exciting initiatives as we strive to create transformative learning environments for all.

Enjoy reading, and stay tuned for all the upcoming updates on our progress in the coming months!



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Main Activities and Updates

Insights from the 3rd Transnational Partner Meeting in Vienna

We're excited to share the latest news from the TUTOR project, as our third transnational partner meeting recently took place in Vienna, Austria. Hosted by our Austrian partner OJAB, the meeting spanned from November 30th to December 1st, 2023, gathering our consortium members for critical discussions and progress updates. The primary objective of the meeting was to provide a comprehensive overview of the project's current status, assess progress made thus far, and strategize for upcoming activities. Led by the project coordinator, we delved into technical and financial aspects, with a keen focus on project management and quality assurance. One of the highlights of the meeting was the presentation of key findings from Deliverable 2.3, the Training Needs Analysis Report, by Symplexis. This report serves as a crucial foundation, offering insights into the existing gaps in inclusive education and paving the way for our project's development and implementation strategies.

A significant portion of our discussions revolved around the methodological framework for defining learning objectives and delivering the Joint Curriculum and 3 Specialization Courses. Structured around intersectionality, our curriculum aims to address the needs of diverse learner groups, including LGBTQI+ learners, migrants/refugees, and students from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds. Additionally, we delved into the design of learning assessment methodologies and the development of training guides and manuals for trainers. These resources will play a pivotal role in facilitating the implementation of our training program, ensuring its effectiveness and impact.



On the second day of the meeting, EVBB and EVTA provided updates on dissemination and exploitation efforts. From social media promotions to stakeholder engagement and formulation of policy recommendations, we're actively working to strengthen the upskilling of the teaching workforce in terms of inclusivity. Overall, the third transnational partner meeting proved to be incredibly productive, allowing us to address challenges, clarify uncertainties, and brainstorm solutions collaboratively. Together, we're committed to advancing inclusive education and creating transformative learning environments for all.



Breaking Barriers: TUTOR Project Unveils Insights on Inclusive Practices in Secondary Education

Second Deliverable of the Project

The TUTOR project has achieved a pivotal milestone with the unveiling of its Existing Status Report, marking a significant stride in its three-year endeavor to strengthen inclusive education across the European Union. This report stands as a culmination of exhaustive research efforts aimed at comprehensively understanding the current state of the educational landscape, identifying hurdles, and uncovering avenues for enhancing inclusive practices among teachers and stakeholders.

With inclusivity at its core, the TUTOR project endeavors to cater to the needs of students hailing from marginalized communities, encompassing LGBTQI+ individuals, ethnic minorities, migrants, and those from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds. Research was conducted across four national contexts—Austria, Greece, Ireland, Turkey—and supplemented by a regional study spanning the European Union.

Methodology

The Existing Status Report draws upon data gleaned through rigorous methodologies:

- **Online Questionnaires:** Secondary education teachers and vocational training professionals provided insights into their knowledge, competencies, and training needs related to inclusive education, offering a comprehensive understanding of the educational landscape.



- **Focus Groups:** Facilitated discussions delved into concepts of inclusive education, intersectionality, and diversity within educational settings, providing valuable qualitative insights.

- **Interviews:** Semi-structured interviews with teachers and stakeholders enriched the understanding of inclusive education practices, training experiences, and support systems.



Key Recommendations

The report underscores several pivotal recommendations, including:

- Advocating for comprehensive professional development programs covering inclusive practices, intersectionality, and classroom management.
- Integrating technology-driven learning into teacher training to equip educators with digital skills.



- Implementing mentoring and peer support programs, fostering collaboration between seasoned educators and newcomers.
- Acknowledging and embracing intersectionality and diverse representation among educational staff and bodies, as well as in curricula and learning materials.

- Recognizing the pivotal role of principals in fostering inclusive cultures and supporting teachers with resilience training to confront biases and facilitate open dialogues.
- Developing systematic monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to gauge the efficacy of teacher training programs and address implementation gaps.
- Establishing comprehensive policy frameworks and a whole-school approach to combat bullying, foster safe environments, and address discrimination effectively.
- Involving students in decision-making processes and cultivating democratic classroom spaces.



Concluding Remarks

The release of the TUTOR project's Existing Status Report marks a significant milestone in the advancement of inclusive education. By identifying both the existing challenges and opportunities, the project sets the stage for future initiatives and the subsequent phases of the project, which strive to establish more inclusive and equitable learning environments for all students.

Find Out More

Bridging Gaps in Secondary Education: Insights from the Training Needs Analysis Report

We're excited to announce the completion and publication of our [Training Needs Analysis Report](#), representing a pivotal step forward in the TUTOR project's efforts to enhance inclusive education. This report delves deep into the gaps between the current state and desired outcomes in inclusive education, drawing from extensive research conducted by the TUTOR partnership.

Methodology

The report meticulously examines findings from literature reviews, focus groups, interviews, surveys, and skills gap maps across partner countries, including Greece, Austria, Turkey, Ireland, and at the EU-wide level. Employing robust methodologies, including 'Thematic Analysis' using MAXQDA software, the report identifies critical themes and areas for improvement.

Key Findings

1

Fragmented Implementation

The analysis reveals a fragmented implementation of frameworks for inclusive education across partner countries, highlighting a misalignment between policy and practice.

2

Absence of Good Practices

Despite efforts, there remains an absence of consistent good practices in inclusive education.

4

Teachers as Curriculum Makers

Teachers' roles as curriculum makers emerge as pivotal in driving inclusive education initiatives.

3

Development of Inclusive Language

The report stresses the importance of developing and utilizing inclusive language in educational practices, alongside the creation of contextualized guidelines.

5

Whole-School Approach

Inclusive education must be built upon a whole-school approach, grounded in intersectionality.



6 Understanding Intersectionality

There's a recognized lack of understanding of intersectionality, signaling a need for greater representation and awareness.

7

Deeper Training and Systemic Changes

A call for deeper training, systemic changes, and collaborative efforts to establish a truly inclusive education system is echoed throughout the report.

6

9

Role of Technology

Participants underscore the importance of technology-driven learning in teacher training, emphasizing inclusivity in its application.

10

Mentoring and Peer Support

Mentoring and peer support are identified as crucial strategies for knowledge sharing among educators.

8

11

Resilience Training

Resilience training for educators is highlighted as essential for navigating challenges and facilitating dialogue.

Importance of Professional Development

Comprehensive professional development for teachers emerges as a consistent theme, covering diverse techniques, inclusive practices, and technological skills.

Conclusion

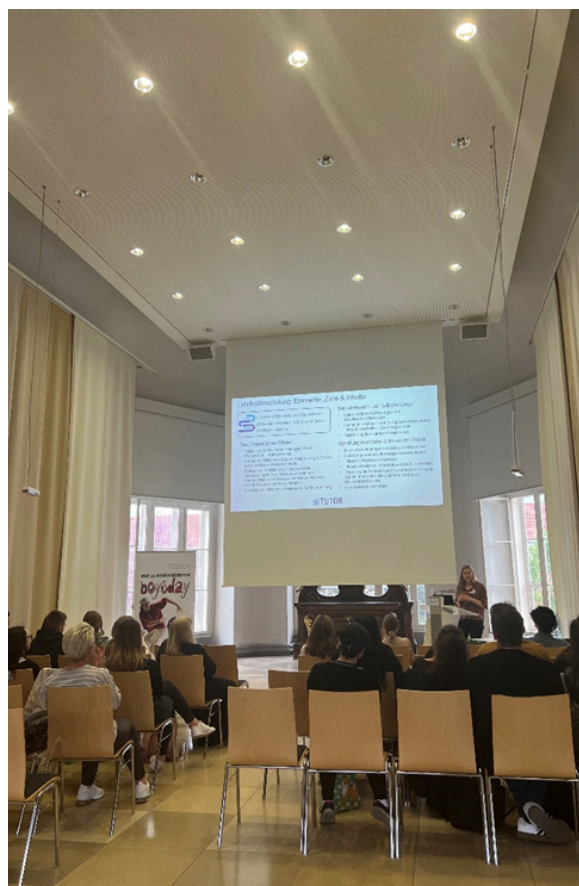
The findings from the Training Needs Analysis Report offer a comprehensive roadmap for promoting inclusive education among educators. With key themes such as professional development, technology integration, and policy alignment, educators across European Union and Turkey are poised to lead the charge in fostering inclusive and equitable educational experiences. Stay tuned as we embark on the next phase of the TUTOR project, leveraging these insights to drive meaningful change in secondary education!

[Find Out More](#)

TUTOR Info Days in Austria: Fostering Inclusion in Education

On April 15th, educators from across Austria convened for the highly anticipated TUTOR Information Day, marking a significant milestone in the realm of education. With 23 passionate educators in attendance, the event provided a platform for deep exploration into inclusion and participation within the educational landscape, while also shedding light on the professional growth opportunities embedded within the TUTOR project.

Katharina Jakob, a distinguished lecturer from the Institute for Teacher Training at the University of Vienna, captivated the audience with her insightful presentation on the importance of inclusivity for all students. Drawing from her wealth of experience, Jakob passionately advocated for the destigmatization of learners with special needs, igniting profound reflections among the attendees on fostering more inclusive learning environments.



Following Jakob's compelling discourse, Franziska Steffen, representing die Berater®, stepped forward to introduce the TUTOR project. Steffen outlined the project's overarching objectives, aimed at equipping educators with the essential methodologies and theories necessary for cultivating inclusive classrooms. The enthusiastic response from the audience underscored their genuine interest in embracing this initiative and their eagerness to witness its transformative impact.

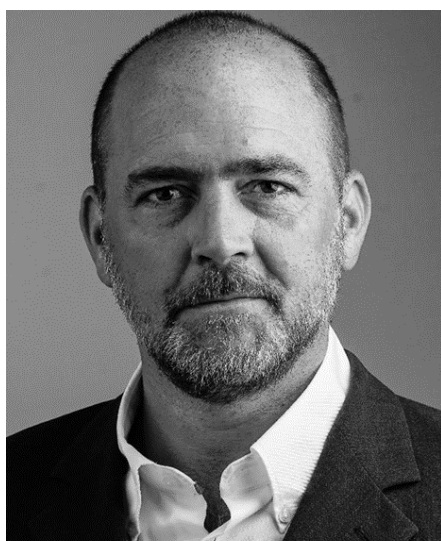
Beyond the formal presentations, the TUTOR Information Day served as a catalyst for dynamic discussions among participants. Ideas flowed freely, and diverse perspectives were exchanged with fervor, fostering a sense of camaraderie and shared commitment to inclusive education. As the event drew to a close, attendees gathered around a modest buffet, seizing the opportunity to forge new connections and strengthen existing bonds in an informal setting. The success of the TUTOR Information Day in Vienna signals a promising trajectory for the future of education. With educators primed to embrace inclusive practices and eagerly anticipating their involvement in upcoming TUTOR piloting activities scheduled for autumn/winter, the momentum towards inclusive education continues to gather pace, propelled by collective dedication and collaboration.

TUTOR Ambassador Spotlight: Fostering Inclusive Education Across Borders

In the third edition of our TUTOR newsletter, we're thrilled to shine a spotlight on the impactful work of our TUTOR Ambassadors initiative. Launched last year with the aim of enhancing communication and knowledge exchange within our transformative project, the initiative has garnered significant momentum. Consortium members from Greece, Ireland, Turkey, and Austria have selected dedicated ambassadors who are actively promoting our project and its benefits within their professional networks and beyond.

Meet our TUTOR Project Ambassadors!

Ireland's second TUTOR Ambassador Macdara Deery



Macdara, an experienced post-primary English teacher with nine years of teaching experience in a rural Midlands school, holds a BA in Literature and History, as well as an M.Ed. from DCU. Before teaching, he gained diverse life skills, including working on cattle stations in Australia and Canadian oil fields, serving as a wilderness guide in the Rocky Mountains, and practicing as a Master Farrier. With nearly 20 years of involvement in Youth Theatre and outreach programs, Macdara values life-long learning and inclusivity. As a TUTOR Ambassador.

He will leverage his extensive network and expertise to champion inclusive education, actively participating in training initiatives and collaborating with influential figures to support our mission.



TUTOR Ambassadors for Turkey

Tuncer Demirci

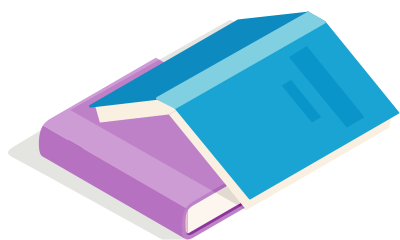
With a rich background in vocational education spanning over three decades, Tuncer Demirci brings a wealth of experience and dedication to our project. Despite retiring two years ago, he remains actively engaged in vocational education projects. Tuncer's career began at Gazi University Faculty of Technical Education, leading to his role as a construction technology teacher with the Ministry of National Education. His commitment to vocational education transcends the classroom; he served as a project specialist for the European Union's efforts to enhance Turkey's vocational education system from 2002 to 2006. Tuncer's passion for improving educational practices motivated him to collaborate with the TUTOR project. As a TUTOR Ambassador, he will actively engage in our project's educational pursuits, working alongside prominent figures within the educational landscape to propel our collective mission forward.



Osman Kaya

As Turkey's newest addition to our TUTOR Ambassador team.

With a distinguished career spanning over three decades in education, Osman brings a wealth of knowledge and passion to our project. He currently teaches at Science High School, beginning his journey with higher education at Selcuk University, Faculty of Education, specializing in Psychological Counselling and Guidance. For 30+ years, he's served as a guidance teacher within the Ministry of National Education, shaping students' academic and personal growth. Osman's dedication to inclusive education led him to join the TUTOR project, seeing alignment with his career-long principles. As an Ambassador, he'll utilize his network and expertise to support our mission, collaborating with stakeholders and advancing inclusive education initiatives.



TUTOR Ambassador for Greece

Dr. Christina Kaouri

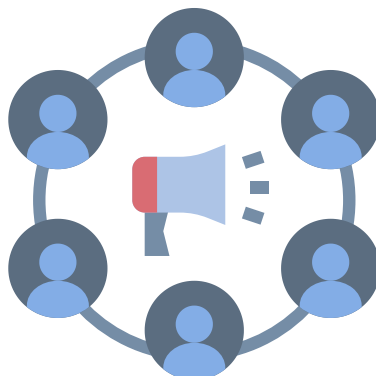


With over two decades of expertise in psychology, criminology, and education, Dr. Kaouri, holds a PhD in School Psychology and Education Sciences from the University of Patras, bringing valuable expertise to our project. Her research focuses on school violence, particularly the roles of 'Bully'/'Victim'/bystanders and intervention strategies involving the school community and families. She has contributed to numerous EU-funded projects and has a diverse background, including roles as a school psychologist, academic staff, and program director. Dr. Kaouri is dedicated to supporting marginalized groups, including prisoners, Roma people, special needs children, and socio-economically disadvantaged students. In her role as a TUTOR Ambassador, she will use her network and expertise to advance inclusive education initiatives, representing and promoting TUTOR's goals and actions.



Did you know that

Our TUTOR Ambassadors are driving our project's dissemination and exploitation efforts forward. Through engaging Facebook Live Events, networking with national influencers, and active participation in training activities, they are making a difference in their communities and beyond. Stay tuned for updates as they continue to champion inclusive education.



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Advancing Inclusivity in Education – TUTOR Project's Facebook Live Event Series

We're excited to announce the successful launch of the TUTOR Project's Facebook Live Event series last December! This initiative aimed to engage both individuals and the educational community in vital conversations about inclusivity in classrooms. Since its inception, the project has hosted four impactful Facebook Live Events, drawing in approximately 700 participants and viewers. The first event, led by our esteemed Irish member from Maynooth University on December 7, 2023, delved into LGBTQI+ inclusivity in educational settings, featuring Jamie Kenny, the Irish TUTOR Ambassador, and other dedicated colleagues.



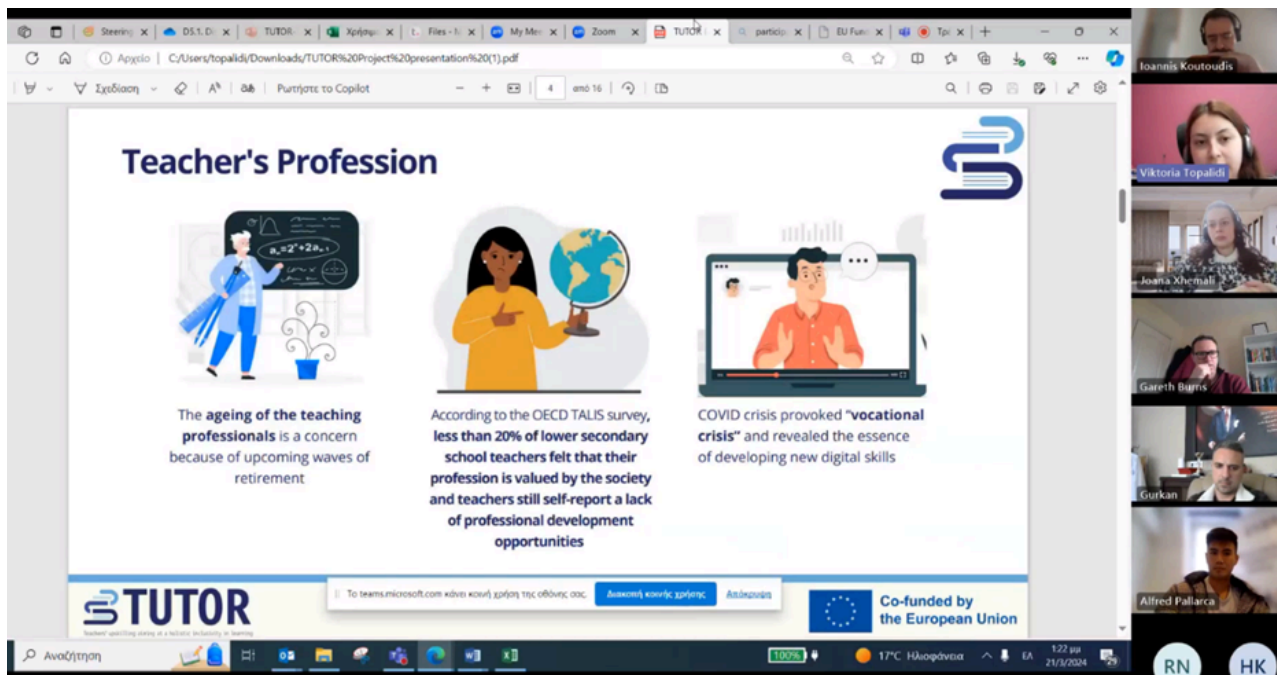
Following this, our Turkish partners from SERGED Teaching Academy and the National Directorate of Serik District hosted the second event on December 13, focusing on inclusive classrooms for middle school teachers. The third event, led by our Greek partners Akmi, ASPETE, and Symplexis on February 16, 2024, explored inclusive education and multiculturalism in secondary schools, emphasizing the role of teachers in creating equitable spaces. Most recently, our Austrian partners, OJAB and die Berater, hosted a Facebook Live event on March 21, 2024, discussing diversity and inclusion in classrooms, conducted in German.



Each event has sparked thought-provoking discussions, highlighting the importance of embracing diversity in educational settings. These events have provided a safe platform for students, teachers, parents, and stakeholders to engage in productive discussions and promote inclusivity. Keep an eye on our social media channels for updates on upcoming events and join the discussion!

Pathways to Progress: TUTOR Project Initiates Advisory Group Discussions

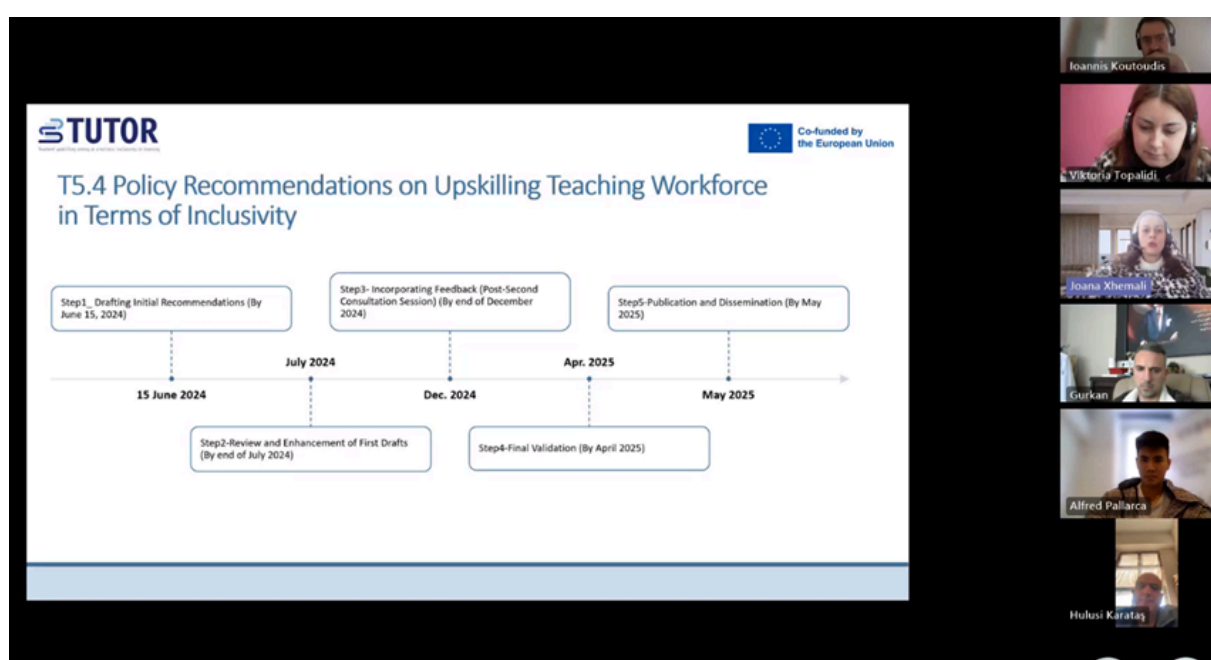
We are excited to share the exciting news of another recent milestone: the first introductory meeting with the esteemed Members of the TUTOR Advisory Group of Experts, held on March 21st, 2024. This meeting marked a pivotal moment in our project's journey towards advancing inclusive education. The session commenced with warm introductions and an insightful overview of the agenda. Among the agenda items were opportunities for members to acquaint themselves with one another, delve into a comprehensive presentation on the TUTOR project, and receive a detailed briefing on Task 5.4. This task, crucial to our mission, involves formulating national and European-level policy recommendations aimed at upskilling the teaching workforce in inclusivity.



In addition to outlining the roles and responsibilities of the advisory group, the session emphasized the importance of establishing clear guidelines to ensure mutual understanding among all participants. Each member of the TUTOR Advisory Group then had the opportunity to introduce themselves, sharing their rich professional backgrounds and diverse experiences in inclusive education. Comprising five members from partner countries, including teachers, an assistant professor, and an inclusive education policy coordinator, the Advisory Group embodies a wealth of expertise and perspectives.

What are the TUTOR Ambassadors' roles and responsibilities?

They are tasked with ensuring the alignment of TUTOR policy recommendations with the specific upskilling needs of secondary education teachers and VET/FET/FET trainers, tailoring our proposals to address the field's most pressing challenges. Their invaluable input and feedback are instrumental in shaping the quality and policy relevance of our work, enhancing the effectiveness and impact of our recommendations.



Collaborating with project partners, they validate the formulated policy recommendations on both national and European levels, ensuring their appropriateness and effectiveness within different educational contexts. As advocates for the TUTOR project, they actively encourage the engagement of other stakeholders, fostering collaboration and amplifying the reach and impact of our efforts. Additionally, representing the project in high-level meetings, they advocate for the significance and impact of the TUTOR project, garnering support and recognition for our collective endeavours.

In essence, the TUTOR project's robust policy recommendation development is guided by an extensive consultation process facilitated by our esteemed Advisory Group of experts. Their active engagement and invaluable contributions enrich our approach, ensuring that our proposals are not only robust but also well-informed and aligned with the European policy landscape. Their dedication and expertise are indispensable in driving the success of the TUTOR project, and we are deeply grateful for their continued involvement.

Resources on inclusive education

Tackling different forms of discrimination in and through education and training

[Learn More](#)

Policies and practices to support successful and inclusive education

[Learn More](#)

Equity and Inclusion in Education: Finding Strength through Diversity

[Learn More](#)

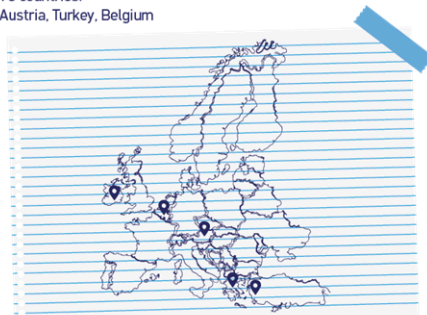
Policies and practices to support successful and inclusive education

[Learn More](#)

Meet the Team

Partners

11 partners from 5 countries:
Greece, Ireland, Austria, Turkey, Belgium



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