

COMMON FRAME OF REFERENCE (CFR)

The UDEL Project

The ERASMUS+ project UDEL21 works on how to **Use Diversity to Enhance Learning in 21st century education**. This purpose is pursued through cooperation for innovation and exchange of good practices. The partners involved in the project are from Belgium (Flanders and Wallonia), Italy, Slovenia, Austria and Czech Republic.

Why...?

Research from the OECD notices that diversity in education is one of the challenges for schools in the next decade.

Policy makers all over the Europe provide common legal base to ensure inclusive education, equal rights and opportunities to eliminate discrimination within education.

Even in the literature about diversity the comparative approach between national experiences is increasingly used, especially to reflect upon strategies to deal with heterogeneity and to evaluate their effects.

How we define “DIVERSITY”

The project is based on a very broad idea of “multiple diversity” and focuses on the different aspects and dimensions of this very complex concept. Social background, multilingualism, cultural diversity, learning and teaching variability and gender issues are taken into account.

Challenges teachers have to face: from mind-shift to practice

If education is to contribute to the full realization of the individual and a new model of development, teachers and other educators remain key actors.

UDEL21 wants to contribute in changing the mind-set of all those who are involved in the school community, by shifting from the idea of diversity as a problem and a state of weakness to a positive notion of diversity as a resource and strength to be used in order to achieve better learning.

CFR is based on practices, research and policies coming from different national school contexts.

In this regard, the comparative method proves to be particularly useful, since it allows researchers, teachers and other stakeholders to benefit from the knowledge of main trends emerging in several models of policies (implemented at international, national and regional levels).

Some principles of education which enhances learning through diversity

- Every child has an equal right to education.
- Every child is able to learn.
- Each pupil should participate on choosing individual learning method, learning goals
- Each pupil has right to be different

- Each pupil should be recognized and respected as an equal partner in the school community choices and processes of active learning.
- Teachers should provide successful learning experiences to every child
- Teachers should fit to all learning needs of children

CFR within UDEL21

The project is focusing on creating innovative methods and forms of education, to increase motivation, school attendance, cultural understandings, to deal with language challenge, etc... in order to avoid violence and racism and overall to train teachers to be able to exploit diversity throughout all the school's levels.

Project goal:

The project aims at training collaborative teachers, providing useful and effective tools for teaching *in* diversity (using diversity of all children as an asset for learning) and *for* diversity (providing children with competences to function as citizens in a diverse society). This innovative "diversifying" perspective is strongly committed to improving the role of teachers and the effectiveness of teacher training. The project will contribute to this goal by providing training opportunities, instructional guidelines and resources, examples of good practices.

Further impacts

The project encourages to a collaborative school culture, by enhancing the participation of all the stakeholders. Learners, teachers, and other potential participants need to be actors in policies based on norms oriented to achieve high standards of education and integration.

The examples of best practices in school co-operation, involving various partners, clearly demonstrate the benefits of such co-operation for both actors, the school and the community.

Fostering competencies and a new mind-set on diversity at school is necessary in order to build a democratic and pluralistic society.

Toward pluralistic society

For the society the project would help with the development of new perspectives, in terms of laws and regulations.

In a pluralistic society school education has a fundamental role in allowing everyone, from the early childhood on, to become what she/he is and what she/he wants to be, according to their qualities and potentialities (**capabilities**).