

Comenius Learning Network

‘EDUCONNECT: Bridging teacher training and schools’ Empowering education through partnership

Target group

What and why?

We would love creating a learning network between teacher training institutes (early childhood and primary education) within the framework of the Comenius Association.

The **aim** of this learning network is to create a platform for the exchange of expertise, experiences and best practices. This network promotes **professional development** through joint reflection and discussion on a generic theme, relevant to each partner institution. Moreover, it fosters a culture of **continuous improvement and innovation** through collaborative learning. Collaboration within the network contributes to the improvement of teaching strategies and methods of each partner, and results in **enhanced quality of teacher education**.

Exchanging approaches and experiences with European partners also provides a unique opportunity to learn about diverse teaching practices and cultures, which contributes to broadening and deepening one's own frame of reference. Learning with an **international perspective** strengthens the ability to deal with **different perspectives and innovations**, which is crucial in an increasingly globalised society and educational context. Thus, this international collaboration not only promotes the **professional growth** of the participants, but also contributes to the strengthening and enrichment of the curriculum of teacher education as a whole.

- Teacher training institutes (preschool and primary) from Comenius partner countries.
- Max. 2 participants per country (of the same institute) to ensure sufficient variety of countries in the group: one focused on internship, one focused on professional development.
- Max. participants: 16 (to have a workable group focused on exchange and discussion).
- We opt to work with a more or less fixed group that goes through a series of meetings together, but new partners can also join (e.g. when places become available in the group). In this way, previous meetings and input can be built on, and a subject can be explored in depth.



Theme

This learning network focuses on the partnership between teacher training and its working field. We zoom in thematically on 3 topics:

1. **Teacher Training:** how does internship take shape during training? How do we train and how do we cooperate with our schools? What does our partnership look like? How do we train our mentors?
2. **Bridge between education and the professional field:** how do students make the transition from 'being a student' to 'starting teacher'? How do we build a bridge between education and the professional field?
3. **Professional field:** how does the professional field organise induction and what role can a teacher training play in this? How can we strengthen and support each other?

Approach

We adopt a cyclical approach in which the theme of this learning network returns at each meeting, but is fleshed out each time from the focus of the host country. The vision and approach in that country are highlighted and explained, and form the starting point for all partners' learning. At the next meeting, a different partner takes the spotlight and we go through the same themes, approached from that specific context and approach, etc.

Monday, March 17th 2025

13.30 – 17.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Registration, welcome speech and introduction on the programme• Icebreaker and getting to know each other
18.00 – 21.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation round of the partner institutions Social activities

Tuesday, March 18th 2025

9.00 – 12.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• School visit in primary schools• Consultation with the school's headteacher and visiting a student teacher
13.30 – 17.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Internship concept 'SMART' as a model of partnership• Bridge between teacher training and the professional field• Link between 'professional and personal development' and internship• Exchange and learn from each other
18.00 – 21.00	Social activities

Wednesday, March 19th

9.00 – 12.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Training of class mentors: approach, organisation, strengths and opportunities, challenges• Exchange and learn from each other
13.30 – 17.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Induction in the working field: macro level, school community level and school level• Presenting 'Power to start': a tool for induction• Exchange and learn from each other• Conclusion and lessons learned• Closing, agreements for the future

Want to join? Artevelde University of Applied Sciences, Ghent, Belgium

17, 18 and 19 March 2025 · Deadline for registration: 20th of December 2024

Contact Bart.delathouwer@arteveldehs.be, Veerle.amelinckx@arteveldehs.be and Philip.oneill@arteveldehs.be for registration and information!

