

UNESCO-IBE

Community of Practice in Curriculum Development

IBE-UNESCO



What is the Community of Practice (COP) in Curriculum Development?

- The COP is an open, plural, multilingual, proactive and quite unique worldwide community of experts on curriculum development
- It focuses on an holistic approach around the EFA goals and within a comprehensive vision of the curriculum

Why have a COP?

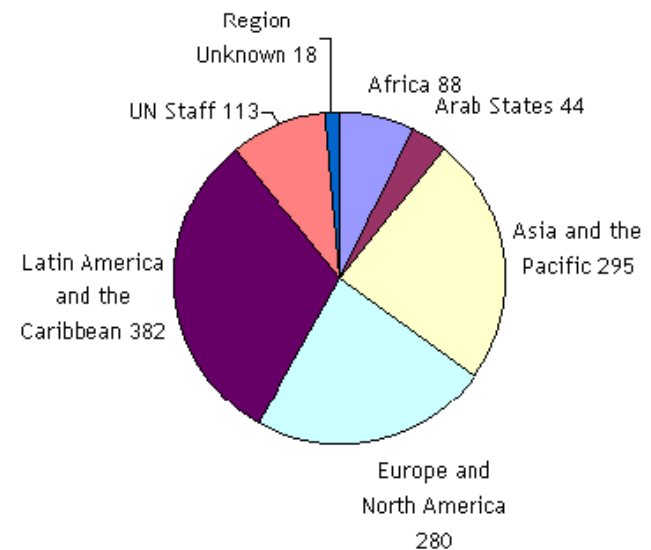
The main barriers to knowledge sharing are principally:

- the common understanding of concepts such as inclusive education and competency-based approaches
- overcoming of the language barriers to effectively generate a fluid horizontal communication among COP members.
- The COP is a valuable instrument for building and sharing competencies and knowledge at global, inter-regional, regional and national levels.
- The COP stimulates the inter-regional sharing of knowledge as well as knowledge production through collective thinking and action on curriculum issues

Who is the COP?

- The COP comprises of over 1200 participants from 126 countries. It covers all UNESCO regions.
- It is shared among:
 - Policy makers
 - Educators
 - Curriculum Developers and Specialists
 - Scholars
 - Researchers
 - Supervisors
 - Principals
 - Teachers

Worldwide Community of Practice - 1220 members - June 2009



What are the COP objectives?

- The main objectives are:
 - To encourage the understanding and clarification of key educational and curriculum concepts
 - To provide access to current trends, comparative research and updated documentation on curriculum change
 - To identify valuable practices and useful learning resources at the school and classroom levels (i.e. curriculum approaches and tools)
 - To produce new knowledge and ideas

How does the COP work?

- Knowledge sharing and production is done through face to face and on-line COP activities between the IBE COP coordination, 11 Regional Focal Points (cover all UNESCO regions) and the COP members, encompassing, among others:
 - International seminars and conferences on core curriculum issues
 - Capacity building workshops
 - Inter-regional exchanges
 - Worldwide and regional e-forums
 - A weekly animation activity of documentation and information sharing
 - A weekly on-line alert
 - Downloads of IBE publications and documents
 - Access to learning resources at www.ibe.unesco.org/COPs
- e.g. the series of 13 regional workshops and conferences on Inclusive Education (914 participants from 128 countries) held in 2007 and 2008 in preparation for the 48th International Conference of Education (ICE 2008). Now the 48th ICE follow-up activities benefit greatly from the COP, which has built strong partnerships within UNESCO.

What does the COP share?

The COP shares and builds upon:

- Workshops presentations and reports
- Working papers on curriculum and learning resources
- Country dossiers, collections of curriculum related materials and digital library of national reports from IBE Resource Bank and Observatory of Trends
- News on IBE and IBE partners' events
- Contacts and expertise related to specific requests

How do we measure the success of the COP?

- On a weekly basis, we receive qualitative inputs from COP members regarding the activities being planned and implemented. They outline the significance of the COP as:

An information and knowledge sharing tool - *“... in curriculum development we all have a great deal to learn from one another and IBE can be both a catalyst and an active agent in such exchange”*

A valuable input for doing research - *“Researchers like me from the developing economies very much need such wonderful network and information”*

A way of promoting collaboration and initiating participation - *“I am totally open to respond to any inquiry with regard to the PEI – Institutional Educational Projects – which I have worked on its implementation in 25 schools in Guatemala”*

An opportunity to react to documents and publications *“regarding the IPE’s publication on new laws in Education I will like to add that the last decade was extremely rich in the elaboration of new education laws....”*

A way of raising questions and suggestions *“I would like to take the opportunity to request from you a list of curriculum specialists, specifically for the secondary education level in the areas of academic and technical-vocational education”*

In sum, as one COP member has nicely put it, *a global conversation on curriculum is going on!*

To become a member: please contact ibe.cop@unesco.org