



FINNISH NATIONAL  
BOARD OF EDUCATION

**Preparatory Activity of the 48<sup>th</sup> Session of the International  
Conference on Education**

Helsinki, Finland  
6 – 7 March 2008

**Organized by**

Finnish National Board of Education  
IBE UNESCO

**Venue**

Helsinki Congress Paasitorni/ Tarja Halonen  
Paasivuorenkatu 5A  
FIN – 00530 Helsinki

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Background of the seminar

The Community of Practice in Curriculum Development (hereinafter referred to as COP) is IBE's major effort to promote capacity building among educators, curriculum specialists and developers in UNESCO member states. Finland's Role is to serve as the Focal Point of the COP for the Nordic region of Europe, in coordination with IBE. Finland will be responsible for:

- Organizing a seminar, focusing on analyzing the Nordic case - lessons learned and current challenges on Inclusive Education- as a preparatory activity for the 48<sup>th</sup> UNESCO International Conference on Education (ICE) taken place in 2008, to be attended by ministers of education of member states.
- Preparing a discussion document for the workshop concentrating on analyzing the key factors and dimensions (communitarian, institutional, policy, curricular, pedagogical and teaching, among others) that can explain the advances of the Nordic region in carrying out an Inclusive Education, and how they can be good references for other regions

### Country Presentations

Each country represented will do a presentation under the title "Current Trends of Inclusive Education in our country", on either of the following topics:

#### Approaches, Scope and Content

1. What are the critical aspects of the conceptualisation and the definition of inclusive education in our country and/or sub-region? How has the concept been adjusted/renovated over the past ten years? What are the groups to focus on? Which are the current main sources of exclusion?

#### Public Policies

2. Which is the role of inclusive education in the curriculum change and the educational agenda of our country and/or sub-region? Why is this role more or less important? Is it a government priority with regard to the construction of a public agenda, to carry out initiatives under a long-term perspective and allocate resources for their adequate development?

#### Systems, Links and Transitions

3. How is the concept of inclusive education integrated in the curriculum structure of basic education? Is this integration part of a coherent transition between primary and secondary education? Is inclusive education conceived as a way of democratising opportunities for life-long learning?

#### Learners and Teachers

4. Do on-going processes of curriculum change foster learning environments that can facilitate inclusion at the school and classroom levels? How can the learning processes be activated with children with widely different abilities? How and to what extent teachers are equipped with the required competencies to attend the growing diversity of learners' expectations and needs? What are the outcomes already achieved in these regards in your country / sub-region?

## SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Tuesday 4 March 2008	
During the whole day	Participants' Arrival
Wednesday 5 March 2008	
During the whole day	Optional School visits and Participants' Arrival
19:00 -	Get together – evening
Thursday 6 March 2008	
09:00 – 09:30	Registration, coffee/ breakfast
09:30 – 10:45	<p>Welcome Addresses</p> <p>Workshop and participants' introduction</p> <p>Opening presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inclusive Education as a main strategy to attain EFA goals by Mr. Renato Opertti, Coordinator of the Curricular Capacity Building Programme, IBE-UNESCO, Geneva.</li> </ul>
10:45 – 11:15	Coffee Break
11:15 – 12:45	<p>Presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Right to Education for All: Global Perspectives in Inclusive Education by Mrs. Jill Van den Brule, Inclusive Education, Division for the promotion of Basic Education (ED/BAS), UNESCO Paris</li> <li>• An inter-regional perspective on Inclusive Education: outcomes from other Regional Workshops</li> </ul>
12:45 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 15:00	<p><b>SESSION 1</b> - Presentations of the National Reports on Inclusive Education (1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Denmark</li> <li>• Finland</li> <li>• Åland</li> </ul>
15:00 – 15:30	Coffee Break
15:30 – 17:30	<p><b>SESSION 2</b> - Presentations of the National Reports on Inclusive Education (2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Färö-Islands</li> <li>• Island</li> <li>• Norway</li> </ul>
18 – 19.30	Reception organized by city of Helsinki

<b>Friday 6</b>	
09:15 – 10:30	<b>SESSION 3</b> - Inspiring words and thoughts for the session 4 by Finnish specialists in the field of Inclusive Education
10:30 –11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 – 12:45	<p><b>SESSION 4</b> - Topics to be raised in the International Conference of Education (ICE) 2008 and development of the CIS regional roadmap on inclusive education</p> <p>Parallel Work in groups on four themes: Work in groups on each of the four themes of the workshops of the International Conference of education 2008. Each group works on a theme and identifies, discusses and contributes to the elaboration of the CIS regional agenda on Inclusive Education (roadmap).</p> <p>Themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Inclusive Education: Approaches, Scope and Content (to broaden the understanding of the theory and the practice of inclusive education);</li> <li>(ii) Inclusive Education: Public Policies (to demonstrate the role of governments in the development and the implementation of policies on inclusive education);</li> <li>(iii) Inclusive Education: Systems, Links and Transitions (to create education systems which offer opportunities for life-long learning); and</li> <li>(iv) Inclusive Education: Learners and Teachers (to foster a learning environment where teachers are equipped to meet the learners' diverse expectations and needs).</li> </ul>
12:45 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 15:00	<b>SESSION 5</b> - Presentations of the documents elaborated by the groups and design of a working plan to elaborate a regional agenda on Inclusive Education (roadmap).
15:00 – 15:30	Coffee
15:30 – 17:00	<b>SESSION 6</b> - Development of the Nordic COP and Closing Addresses