

PRESS RELEASE, The Hague 24 Jan 2022

Short summary in Dutch

Inclusief Onderwijs, makkelijker gezegd dan gedaan

Vijf universiteiten in Europa en Afrika slaan de handen ineen en gaan onderzoek doen naar inclusiviteit in het hoger onderwijs. Vaak bestaan er ambitieuze plannen en doelstellingen voor inclusief onderwijs met gelijke kansen voor iedereen maar de praktijk is weerbarstig en vaak lukt het niet om de doelen te bereiken. In dit onderzoek zullen gegevens met name worden verzameld via 'story-telling'. Het project wordt mede-gefinancierd door het Erasmus+ programme van de Europese Unie.

Het onderzoek zal leiden tot een onlinecursus op het gebied van inclusief onderwijs, een documentaire over het onderzoek en de resultaten en een tentoonstelling.

Op 24 februari 2022 wordt een eerste online conferentie gehouden over het onderzoek waarbij ook andere universiteiten en professionals op het gebied van inclusiviteit welkom zijn.

De deelnemende universiteiten in het onderzoek komen uit Ghana, Tsjechie en Slowakije en vanuit Nederland doen de Haagse Hogeschool en het International Institute of Social Studies (Erasmus Universiteit) mee aan het onderzoek.

Voor meer informatie over het onderzoek, de deelnemende universiteiten en de conferentie, raadpleeg de ISS website: <https://www.iss.nl/en/news/inclusive-education-project-launch>

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Full press release in English

Five universities across EU and Ghana to launch project on inclusive education

Researchers and educators in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, the Netherlands and Ghana are partnering together to launch a project on inclusive education called 'Changing Our Story: The Pursuit of Inclusive Education' (ECHOS). The project aims to challenge and demystify the application of inclusive principles within class settings in higher education through storytelling. The project is co-funded by the European Commission's Erasmus+ programme.

On Thursday, 24 February, the project organizers will host their first virtual conference, 'What is Our Story of Inclusive Education?'. The event invites students, staff, and faculty in higher education and inclusion professionals to offer insights into project's goals, implementation, and discuss potential opportunities for collaboration between other universities.

The organizing partners are the University of West Bohemia (Czech Republic), Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra (Slovakia), The Hague University of Applied Sciences (Netherlands),

International Institute of Social Studies of Erasmus University Rotterdam (Netherlands) and the University of Development Studies (Ghana).

The project is motivated by universities struggles to make inclusive learning a reality. All too often, inherent inequalities negatively affect student outcomes. Inclusion within higher education tends to be discussed as a principle to strive for, but time and again, fails to be incorporated into practice. During the conference in February, professionals and students in higher education are encouraged to share stories of success and struggles in creating inclusive classroom settings.

The project will result in three major outputs — an online educational course, art exhibit and documentary film — to be produced by 2024.

About the Erasmus+ grant programme:

Erasmus+ is the EU's programme to support education, training, youth and sport in Europe. For information, visit the [Erasmus+ official webpage](#).

About the 'What is our Story of Inclusive Education?' conference:

The international conference on diversity and inclusion invites professionals and students in higher education to offer insights and reflections into inclusive education. Visit the website: [Changing Our Story](#)

About the University of West Bohemia in Pilsen (UWB):

Founded in 1991, the UWB draws on its tradition of technical specialisations, which are enriched by disciplines from the humanities, economics, arts and health care. Visit the UWB website: www.zcu.cz/en

About the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra (CPU):

CPU is a public, modern educational, scientific and artistic institution in western Slovakia providing a university education, promoting creative scientific research and encouraging artistic activities. Visit the CPU website: www.ukf.sk/en

About The Hague University of Applied Sciences (THUAS):

THUAS has 26,000 students of almost 150 different nationalities. Students are trained for a specific professional profile and provided with tools for their personal and social development. Visit the THUAS website: www.thehagueuniversity.com

About the International Institute of Social Studies of Erasmus University Rotterdam:

Based in The Hague, ISS, part of Erasmus University Rotterdam, is an international graduate school of policy-oriented critical social science. It brings together students and teachers from the Global South and the North in a European environment. Visit the ISS website: <https://iss.nl/>

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More project details can be found here: <https://www.iss.nl/en/news/inclusive-education-project-launch>