

Workshop 8: Shaping a new narrative for immigrant student's inclusion in basic education and vocational studies – sharing best practices

Key Note Speaker:

Marjo Kyllönen, Chief of Education, Department of Education, Finland

Respondents:

Johannes Kopf, Member of the Board of Directors, Austrian Public Employment Service (AMS)

Duncan Howard, Executive Head of Metropolis Project, Canada

Seong Sang Hwan, Seoul National University Center for Multicultural Education, Republic of Korea

Gahha Mohammed Kamel, Director of National Library of Tunisia

David Kasule Wasswa, Mayor of Entebbe Municipal Council, Uganda

Simone Le Gendre, National Institute of Higher Education, Trinidad and Tobago

Florian Hofmann, Dekeyser & Friends Foundation

Moderator:

Ritva Viljanen, Mayor of Education of City of Helsinki

Workshop Summary

The workshop started with a short presentation of key note speaker Marjo Kyllönen by talking about best practice examples within the Finnish educational system. However she also pointed out the difficulties to transfer best practices in a different context; if doing so, a reflection of the best practice is needed before. The core aims of the educational system are the social inclusion and the promotion of full and independent citizenship, especially among students with migration backgrounds. Therefore educational services are provided by intercultural schools which are places where differences are celebrated. Nevertheless there are still certain challenges such as high dropout rates of students with migration backgrounds after compulsory school education.

In this context, Florian Hofmann stated three remarks on this topic: First, he said that education is important and that it has to highlight that everyone is different. Second, diversity should be seen as

an asset, instead of categorizing in right and wrong. And third, he mentioned that people who offer education should have a migrant background as well, so minority groups feel included.

Duncan Howard explained that today's education guarantees economical survival as well as a "vehicle for social justice", and still we take education for granted. Additionally he pictured that in Canada the society takes great pain to promote education as an equal right for everyone, but sadly the outcomes won't reflect the input.

Concerning the youth unemployment rate in Austria Johannes Kopf explained that it's the second lowest in Europe which shows that the country was able to keep the rates stable over the last decades. The highest youth unemployment rate is found amongst people without higher education, but also in this case preventive steps are being taken in Austria. Through the "youth guarantee" every young person, that doesn't undergo any sort of higher qualification, a training program is being assured.

Seong Sang Hwan illustrated that the Korean society is rapidly changing. The former homogenous nation is confronted with a lot of immigrants and is therefore establishing ways of dealing with this fact. Moreover he claims that educational programs are the solution to bridge the gap between different migration groups. All speakers agreed that education plays a highly important role when it comes to including immigrants and drawing a new picture of migration.