

Norway Academia Programme:

7th May 2007:

Presentation by the assistant director of The Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training.

Introductions by Participants.

Presentation Equal Education in Practice.

Context:

- 208 different languages in Norway
- Linguistic minority children who do not enjoy the learning and social benefits of education
- Linguistic minority children under represented in Kindergarden
- Linguistic minority children score lower in exams
- Linguistic minority children have a low rate of school completion
- Lack of bilingual teachers
- Teachers lacking formal competence

Goals of the strategy:

- Improving skills among preschool children of Linguistic Minorities
- Improving school performance of Linguistic Minority Children in primary, lower and upper secondary
- Increasing the proportion of Linguistic Minority Children and Apprentices who commence upper secondary and higher education
- Improving Norwegian language skills
- Linguistic Minority Adults- to increase opportunities of education and active participation in work and society

Examples of best practice:

- Introduction programme to get social benefits
- Homework clubs and summer schools
- Strengthen the Education Guidance Advisory Service
- Involving parents in secondary education
- Teachers going home to parents
- Health Authority to identify language problems or special needs
- Collaborate with other countries to identify good practice in developing language skills

Notes:

- Strategy must be viewed in conjunction with other reports
- Multi agency approach
- 38 projects running'

Presentation 2:

Strategic Plan for Gender Equality

Context- Education

- Majority of those that drop out of upper secondary education are boys
- 70% of the pupils who receive special education are boys
- 80% of those with major behavioural problems are boys
- Boys from a minority background receive lower marks than all other children
- More women than men starting and completing higher education
- Young men and women study different subjects (Craft/Engineering 12-15% are female)
- In health and social care 80% are female

Context-Labour Market

- Norway has one of the most segregated workforces in Europe
- Women's income is approx 60% of men's
- 2 out of 5 members of parliament are women but only 1 out of 10 top leaders are women
- 70% of teachers in primary and secondary schools are women
- 90% of staff in kindergarden are women
- Despite the increase number of women in higher education remarkable difference at the level of academic positions-80% of all professors are men

Objectives of the Strategy:

- Promoting gender equality activities in care and learning
- Learning process shall prepare boys and girls for an education and a choice of profession according to ability and interests irrespective of traditional gender expectations
- Promote better gender balance amongst employees in kindergardens and schools

Examples of best practice:

- Positive discrimination to increase the proportion of women in power and decision making processes e.g. Female Future
- Gender quotas in many political parties
- Public programmes to motivate girls and boys to choose non traditional subjects
- Equality and gender perspectives are to be integrated as criteria into all research funded by the Norwegian Research Council
- Introduction of a father quota within parental leave

Day 2

Presentation by NAFO – provides guidance and advice re: multicultural issues
Experiences and models for working in multi cultural schools

NAFO has responsibility for a number of measures in the Strategy Equal
Education in Practice.

Context:

The drop rate in upper secondary national concern

Language minority 35%

Language majority 23%

Project at Ski Upper Secondary

- Practical work
- Cooperation between home and school
- Networks and resources
- Take first year in upper secondary over two years
- Three year special designed course and get extra support in learning norwegian

Day 3

Group Work

Describe the challenges:

- Integration
- Language
- Lack of money
- Individual who do not want to participate e.g. travellers
- Violence-France
- Migrants will go where the work is
- Parental involvement
- System of guidance not adapted to ethnic minorities
- Lack of role models

How can they be addressed:

- Early interventions
- Transition year (e.g. Ireland)
- Cultural sharing

Career Guidance in Norway:

- To strengthen the system of career guidance in lifelong learning
- To strengthen career guidance in schools
- Professionalisation of careers work

- As per education Act both school sector and the labour market are both responsible for offering careers guidance.

Day 4

Visit to Etterstad Upper Secondary School (Vocational School)

Untraditional choices e.g of best practice

Afternoon- group work

Day 5

Visit to the confederation of Norweigan Enterprise

Business at school programme

Junior Achievement Young Enterprise Norway

Female Future Project

Learning:

- **All countries/careers services were facing similar issues in relation to equal opportunities i.e integration and language barriers**
- **Multi cultural issues will become more of a focus for Northern Ireland as the number of non nationals increase**
- **The placement highlighted that the Careers Service in Northern Ireland is quite advanced in relation to some of the other European countries**