

Good Practice Sustainability

Dialogue learning beyond borders

“How do you deal with mixed-ability classes.” This was the question posed by education authorities from Styria (AT) to the Guldisloo primary school in Wetzikon, where “dialogue learning” has been practised for some years. Establishing this innovative teaching method at the model school in Switzerland and exchanging experience with Austrian schools were the stated objectives of the one-year mobility project “Dialogue Learning Beyond Borders”.

The learning concept was developed by Swiss lecturers in teaching methods Urs Ruf and Peter Gallin. It supports teachers in dealing with mixed-ability classes and is designed to give pupils a better understanding of independent and social learning. It met with a very positive reception including beyond national borders. So, teachers, lecturers in teaching methods, education authorities and school heads visited each other in Switzerland and Austria in order to observe how this approach is being employed and implemented in practice. The teacher mentors were not deterred by the high-level visit of the international delegation, but saw it as a chance to prove their skills and experience and to perfect their own teaching practice.

The project has proved to be a lasting success: the innovative model of learning has been included in the development plan of the regional education authority for Styria. The project is also bearing fruit at the Guldisloo school. “In the meantime, all teachers are involved in the teaching development initiated with the project,” headmistress Cornelia Battaglia is delighted to say. This success is, not least, attributable to the attention received from abroad and to the setting-up of a project-specific continuing education and training concept for the primary school in Wetzikon.



An impressive project for its lasting effect in spreading innovations in teaching methods.



Job shadowing in Wetzikon

Programme	Learning mobility in school education
Project promoter	Primary school Guldisloo in Wetzikon
Project duration	12 months
Funding amount	CHF 41,040
Countries	Austria, Switzerland
Activities	Job Shadowing
Topics	Innovative learning methods, mixed-ability classes
Number of mobilities	27