

Transforming Teacher Education To Improve Learning Outcomes

CONCEPT NOTE FOR AN IIEP LEARNING PORTAL E-SEMINAR: MAY 29-JUNE 2, 2017

JOIN AN INTERNATIONAL E-SEMINAR ON PLANNING TEACHER EDUCATION SYSTEMS

There is a great deal of research suggesting that teachers are the most important school-level variable affecting student learning outcomes—but **how can students learn if teachers are not adequately prepared to teach?**

As international education efforts turn towards quality and learning, rather than just access, education policy-makers and other key stakeholders understandably wonder how to improve the abilities of their teachers. Pre-service and in-service teacher education systems naturally should be one key focus of their attention. How should teacher education systems be designed to maximize teachers' abilities and to reach our goals for student learning outcomes?

This e-Seminar will gather together **education decision-makers from around the world** to discuss three major questions about improving teacher education to improve student learning outcomes:

1. Insights on teacher education from large-scale assessments

- What can we learn about the strengths and weaknesses of teacher education systems from large-scale assessments (including citizen-led, national, regional, and international assessments)?

2. Teacher education reform

- How, and to what extent, can teacher education systems be reformed to solve problems that are detected in learning assessments? Should the focus of this reform be on pre-service or in-service teacher education?

3. Addressing missing teacher competencies

- What key competencies, which are necessary for achieving SDG4, are currently not addressed through teacher education programs—in your own context or around the world?

This week-long IIEP Learning Portal e-Seminar will open with a keynote speaker addressing the importance of teacher education in the context of global efforts to advance education for all. Participants will then be invited to join an **interactive online discussion platform** where they can share details about their own national pre-service and in-service teacher education systems—and debate with other participants from around the world about aspects that need to be improved.

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Through discussion prompts, guest speakers, and the sharing of policies and research, participants will gain new insight into the ways in which teacher education systems could be made more responsive to efforts to improve education quality, and more effectively serve the goal of improved learning outcomes for all students. The e-Seminar will **conclude with a call to action** for participants to engage in their own national discussions around teacher education.

KEY TERMS AND RESOURCES

Pre-service teacher education, also called pre-service teacher training or initial teacher training, refers to the preparation a teacher receives prior to beginning to work. It usually includes studies in particular subjects or type of content, in educational foundations and pedagogy, and in “pedagogical content knowledge” or how to teach a particular subject. Ideally, it also involves practical teaching experiences.

In-service teacher education, also called in-service training or continuing professional development, allows teachers to advance their knowledge and skills while they are simultaneously serving as active teachers. In some countries, it includes a special period of induction or mentoring for newly-qualified teachers. It may also involve participating in seminars, conducting action-research projects, building personal portfolios, or joining group study approaches together with teacher peers.

Resources: Participants will be encouraged to use resources on the IIEP Learning Portal site as background information for their discussions (see <http://learningportal.iiep.unesco.org/en/improve-learning/teachers-pedagogy>).

KEY INFORMATION

Dates: Monday, May 29 to Friday, June 2, 2017

Language: English

Guest Speakers: The e-Seminar will feature a well-known keynote speaker to open the event, and three guest speakers to add an expert perspective to the discussion on each of the e-Seminar topics.

Moderator: Catherine Honeyman, Expert in Learning Issues for the IIEP Learning Portal

Participants: National and departmental education planners and policy-makers, representatives of teacher training institutions, representatives of teachers’ unions, school headmasters, and teachers. Past IIEP Learning Portal e-Seminars have included hundreds of participants from a broad spectrum of countries around the world. Participation will be open and free of charge.

Schedule: Participants will be welcome to access the e-Seminar platform in order to read and post in each of the discussion threads at any time during the week. Each day, a new video presentation will also be offered, to highlight key aspects of the debates and move the discussions along. On the concluding day of the e-Seminar, participants will share their key takeaways and discuss concrete actions to take at the national and local levels.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE IIEP LEARNING PORTAL AT learningportal.iiep.unesco.org