SIRIUS WATCH

Role of non-formal education in migrant children inclusion: links with schools

SIRIUS Watch monitors and supports policy development and implementation at different governance levels in the field of inclusive education, with a particular focus on migrant and refugee learners

It helps SIRIUS to achieve the following objectives:



Analysing and co-creating knowledge on the main challenges and policy approaches for inclusive education for children and young people with a migrant background, with special attention to refugees, unaccompanied minors and other vulnerable learners;

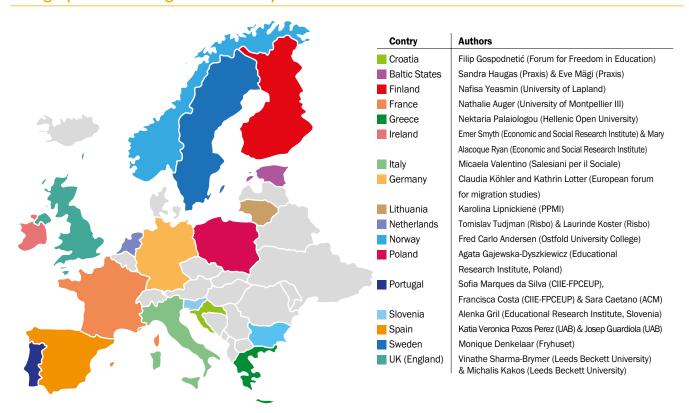


Identifying, sharing and promoting good policy practice and stimulating innovation in policy development, policy experimentation and effective policy implementation:



Disseminating SIRIUS messages and ideas, as well as providing more specific recommendations on how existing policy gaps can be addressed.

Geographical coverage and country contributions



Key focus questions



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How do partnerships between formal and non-formal education providers unfold?

Formal education providers

Key actors in education provision, but sometimes lack flexibility and immediate knowledge necessary to better support migrant children

Providers:

· Primary and secondary schools

Non-formal education providers

Have tailored, innovative and flexible approaches towards various aspects of migrant integration, and can support schools in enhancing children learning experiences

Providers:

- NGOS
- · sport clubs
- businesses
- universities
- · local services
- · youth workers

Validation with

experts and

policy-makers

- professionals in certain fields
- artists, etc.

Partnerships between formal and non-formal education providers

Joint activities, exchange of staff, using partner premises, joint funding, active exchange of information

Examples:

- · lessons in non-traditional environments
- · activities engaging community members
- activities led by teachers on the premises of other organisations
- · all-day schools
- volunteering at a local community centre and recognition of competencies gained in the student learning plan
- mentoring, etc.

SIRIUS Watch suggests that numerous examples of ad hoc projects and practices exist across Member States, implemented by various civil society actors and individual schools to facilitate the inclusion of migrant and refugee children into education process. These project and practices seek to find synergies in the work of CSO and schools and build on each other expertise and achievements. State-led initiatives, such as all-day or community schools, typically target all children universally without being explicitly aimed at migrant

Examples of initiatives and approaches

Ways in which collaboration between schools and NFE actors manifests

- Joint lessons and seminars for students
- · Expert support to schools
- · School projects and student volunteering
- · Community and whole-day schools
- In-service teacher training (by NGOs and community actors)
- Recognition and validation of learning in NFE environments

Thematic focus of integration projects

- Language and academic support, mentoring
- · Psychological and socio-emotional support
- · Preparation for transition to formal education
- Building resilience and cultural awareness through sport and culture
- · Awareness raising about radicalisation and violence

Key barriers for effective synergies

