

Elina Vetoniemi (MA, Music pedagogue, Flutist)
IPA-E (Inclusive Pedagogy in Arts -Europe)

There is one primary questions that has triggered the discussions that have resulted in Inclusive Pedagogy in Arts – Europe (IPA-E): Who is entitled to high class music education? This question is especially tough in civilized Europe where there is a long pedagogical tradition in music education and yet students with special needs are a rare sight in music schools. This is true also in other art institutions (dance, drama, visual arts).

Education, experience of diversity and the availability of necessary support are the main factors behind attitudes of inclusion. There are seven partners in this IPA-E project (Kuopio Conservatory Finland, Siauliai 1st Music School Lithuania, Kreismusikschule Vechta Germany, Savonia University of Applied Scienses Music and Dance Finland, Siauliai Universitetas Lithuania, Universität Vechta Germany, Universität für Musik und Darstellende Kunst Wien (MDW) Austria). The project aims to promote equality to support the students with different kind of special needs (for example physically and mentally disability, different dimensions of immigration and multi-cultural background, elderly people).

Project partners are pioneers in developing inclusion in their own countries both in music schools and art pedagogue education. Each organization has a slightly different approach to inclusion which is richness in this project. All these partners have same values and willingness to develop inclusive pedagogy in arts. Sharing experiences will advance each partners theoretical and practical knowledge. In addition mixing different approaches always promotes new innovations and best practices which will deepen inclusive thinking, teachership and curriculum work.

All this will lead to a new European model of in-service training in inclusive art pedagogy. This all is very relevant, current and most needed. That's why the dissemination of IPA-E project is very high and it will develop inclusive art pedagogy in equal and civilized Europe. IPA-E project is funded by Erasmus+ programme.