

Welcome to a seminar on:

Inclusive and special needs education in vocational education and training

JOIN US

The objective for the seminars is to unravel how vocational teachers in Nordic countries facilitate learning for special needs students in vocational training. We aim to unearth commonalities, disparities, and valuable insights for mutual growth.

What similarities and differences exist between these countries, and, perhaps even more importantly, what valuable lessons can we share?

Join us in uncovering the nuances of inclusive and special needs education in VET, as we learn from the Nordic context and work towards a more inclusive educational future.

SPEAKERS

Jan Bisgaard – Associate Professor. National Centre for Vocational Education and Training – University College Copenhagen. (Denmark).

Peter Koudahl – Associate Professor. Malmö University – Department of School Development and Leadership. (Sweden).

Øyvind Laundal – Assistant Professor. Oslo Metropolitan University – Department of Vocational Teacher Education. (Norway).

Sanna Ryökkynen – Principal Research Scientist. Häme University of Applied Sciences – School of Professional Teacher Education. (Finland).

BACKGROUND

Special and inclusive education are diverse and complex topics that are experienced and implemented differently among both teachers and schools. Different countries will also have different systems in place to take care of students with special needs. There is generally limited knowledge about how special education is practiced and organized in upper secondary education. Although special education is more prevalent in vocational education little is known about how special education is implemented in vocational education programs and classrooms in a Nordic context. Nevertheless, the school and teachers believe that students benefit academically and socially from receiving special education, while also being better prepared for the transition from education to the workforce.

Special needs students have a legal right to have their education adapted to their individual needs to ensure a satisfactory academic and social outcome from the instruction. The organization of special education will be central to vocational teachers' experiences with students with special needs. There are no clear research findings suggesting that students benefit academically from being segregated or included. However, it may seem that belonging to a regular class with flexible and varied organization is beneficial for all students. In this context, the importance of being close to the students and having a high pedagogical awareness of the choices made and practical pedagogy is emphasized, regardless of the organization. There is also research indicating that the teacher's instructions and support play a more significant role. In this regard, the quality of education may be crucial.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The seminars will be held at 18:00 (CET) on 07.11.23 (Norway and Finland) and 21.11.23 (Denmark and Sweden). Each seminar will contain two consecutive 20 minutes presentations. The students are welcome to ask questions after the sessions, either in the chat or in plenary.

Zoomlink

<https://oslomet.zoom.us/j/67475073795?pwd=VjJRejUwaZlMjBRS09wak42WjBGQT09>

If you have any questions, please contact us at oyvindl@oslomet.no