

# EdUSchool

October 2019



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*Enhancing European  
Teacher Education  
through University  
Schools*

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## EdUSchool project goals

The professionalization of teacher education is a highly discussed phenomenon in Europe (Cain 2015, Smith 2016). One main topic in this discussion is the connection of theory and practice, especially the transfer from theory into practice and vice versa. The first focus is how to provide students with practical skills and knowledge during their professional education, which has led to a current 'practice turn' in teacher education. The second focus is how scientific insights can be implemented in the daily life routines of schools and how current challenges schools face can find their way into scientific research. This in mind, a deeper cooperation between schools and universities on the institutional and organizational level seems promising to build up a stable theory-practice-connection. An innovative concept here is the concept of University Schools similar to the idea of university hospitals, where teaching and research are supposed to build a productive combination. The intention of university schools is to build a strategic alliance with an university to educate the future teachers in study programs and to cooperate in research and school development processes (EdUSchool proposal 2018).

The aim of the Erasmus+ project EdUSchool (Enhancing European teacher education through University schools) is to develop a common European understanding of university schools and their concepts regarding to all stakeholders. With this, we want to make a significant contribution to the European teacher education system. In detail, the objectives in EdUSchool are:

- Establishing an European understanding of university schools as an important stimulus for the future of teacher education in Europe
- Identifying success factors for implementing university schools related to different stakeholders (i.e. non-governmental institutions)
- Identifying good practice activities of university schools in Europe to develop an orientation knowledge for teacher educators and teachers at university schools
- Development of an educational module for teachers at university schools
- Enhancing exchange processes for people who are working within the frame of university schools

To reach the aims, the EdUSchool project is split in four intellectual outputs: (1) Institutional description of University Schools concepts in Europe, (2) Good practice collection by comparing the theoretical concepts with practical implementation, (3) Development of an educational module for teachers acting within an University School concept, (4) Design of a (digital) handbook of the different possibilities to implement University Schools. In this newsletter, we present the results of the intellectual output 1, the institutional description.

## EdUSchool Project consortium

### University of Bamberg



### Institute of Education University of Lisbon



### Masaryk University



### University of Erlangen-Nuremberg



### Norwegian University of Science and Technology



## State of the Art of Intellectual Output 1: Institutional description of University School concepts in Europe

The intention of the institutional description is to identify and describe organizational as well as communicational and co-operative patterns within the different implemented university school concepts in Europe. The focus is on the connection between universities and university schools. Other stakeholders will be included, too, such as teacher organizations, ministry, etc.. With this, we want to describe, analyze and systemize criteria-oriented concepts in teaching and learning between all stakeholders (school, university, governmental and non-governmental organizations) based on the concept of university schools. On the meso-level we want to find organizational and co-operative structures that have to be implemented to make governmental partners (like the ministry, school supervisory, etc.) and non-governmental partners (like teacher labor union) support the concept of university schools and strengthen the research-based view in teacher education programs. Additionally, we are interested in organizational and co-operative structures able to make teachers and future teachers become "reflective practitioners", and combine practice based and theory-focused research in order to contribute to a deeper understanding of education.

Despite similarities concerning the influence of governmental regulations on teacher education in general and the implementation of University School concepts in particular, the analyses show that the degree of governmental regulation and the degree of (de-)centralization varies throughout the national contexts. University School concepts in Norway and Czech Republic are part of a national strategy for development of teacher education, whereas in Germany, it is not a nationwide concept and it is limited on vocational schools. There are furthermore differences in institutional references of the different concepts. While in Germany and Czech Republic the concepts primarily are designed and carried out under participation of schools and universities, Norwegian University School concepts are anchored in wider structures under participation of local policy makers. University School concepts in Germany appear not to be limited. By contrast, the concepts in Czech Republic and Norway are negotiated in contracts over a certain period. In addition, degree of decentralization and University autonomy within the University concepts appear to impact the number of especially institutional and community stakeholders. Broader similarities are found within the main objectives of University School concepts in the respective countries. These can be summarized as the alignment of theoretical and practical training of teacher education students, school development and quality management at participating schools, and conducting research at schools as well as putting research into practice. Considering the question on professionalization of students and teachers at University Schools the insights shown above indicate a broad availability of measures for teacher education student's professionalization including both, practical trainings and theoretical reflection at University and University Schools. By contrast, there are only fewer concrete measures for University School teacher's professionalization anchored in the respective concepts. The professionalization of university lectures, yet, appears not be an issue for University School concepts

## 1st Project meeting

On the 4th and 5th of February, the kick-off event took place at the university in Bamberg. Every partner from Germany, Norway, the Czech Republic and Portugal were represented. A goal of the meeting was achieving a common understanding of the project aims and to collectively introduce the first content. To do so, it was important to gain insight in the currently differing concepts of University Schools, so every partner introduced themselves and their present concepts. In addition, Mr. Jochen Hofman, head of the Department for Vocational Schools and Teacher Education, of the Bavarian Ministry of Education, gave an introduction to the Bavarian school system and the Bavarian University School concept. A visit at the Vocational School III in Bamberg provided the participants with insight in the collaboration and joint projects of the same and the University of Bamberg.



## Upcoming Events

Stay connected with our upcoming events

<b>3<sup>rd</sup> partner meeting</b>	Jan 22 <sup>nd</sup> and 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2020
<b>IO 2 Good practice collection</b>	March 2020
<b>4<sup>th</sup> partner meeting</b>	May 26 <sup>th</sup> and 27 <sup>th</sup> , 2020
<b>IO 3 Educational Module</b>	July 2020
<b>IO 4 Handbook</b>	September 2020
<b>Multiplier Event</b>	September 8-10, 2020



**EdUSchool YouTube Channel**



## Literature to University Schools

The project consortium compiled during the project work a first literature list to the main idea of University Schools as well as examples from European countries. You will find the literature list also available on our website [www.university-schools.eu](http://www.university-schools.eu).

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