

Shifting mindsets – transforming practices: Lessons learned from the Teac4Integration programme

Teach for Integration (T4I) is a free accredited professional development programme for teachers and education administrators who are involved in the education of children with a refugee or migrant background. It is a collaboration between the UNICEF Greece Country Office and the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, and the University of Thessaly, with the support of the Hellenic Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports, under the supervision of the Institute of Educational Policy. Upon completion of the programme, participants have increased competence in responding to the challenges that arise in the field; they also effectively implement educational practices that promote inclusion, empower students, reduce school dropout and lead to increased learning outcomes. Since the beginning of its implementation, the programme has supported more than 6,000 teachers and education staff, prioritising those who teach in mainstream classes with learners who have a refugee or migrant background and the ones teaching in Reception Classes.

The Laboratory of Pedagogical Research and Lifelong Education of the University of Patras (Department of Educational Sciences and Early Childhood Education) has conducted the assessments of all cycles of the TEACH4Intergation programme. During more than five years using data from both quantitative and qualitative research approaches, the annual assessments of each cycle have crystallized the picture of the overall contribution of such a large intervention. In this presentation, data from the most recent implementation cycle will be analyzed, outlining the impact of this intervention, and providing conclusions for future teachers' professional development initiatives on issues of inclusive education.