

## Collaborative teaching...

### A package...

We would like to offer a package of different courses for schools who wish to implement collaborative teaching or professional learning communities among their staff with the purpose of enhancing the focus on the 21<sup>st</sup> century key competences of their students/pupils. The package offers courses specifically on collaborative teaching for management, teachers and school counselors respectively, and Erasmus+ funding can be requested. Furthermore we recommend supplementing these three courses with some of our open courses.



### Collaborative teaching...

Collaborative teaching involves two or more teachers working together to lead, instruct and mentor groups of students, focusing on the 21<sup>st</sup> century key competences (such as collaboration, creative and innovative thinking, critical thinking and communication) and often working cross-disciplinary. Collaborative teaching and professional learning communities among teachers can enhance both students' performance and well-being. Through collaboration teachers develop themselves, their own teaching practice and their common approaches to focus on the new key competences, go beyond traditional subjects, and to deal better with classes or students in difficulties.

Collaborative teaching is about modelling the competences that we want to develop among students. This means that both managers, teachers and counsellors model collaboration amongst themselves to show how this leads to critical thinking around their own practice, creative and innovative solutions as well as great communication. Knowing how to collaborate to create an added value makes it easier to nurture these competences among students and pupils.

Collaborative teaching is about building a reflective and innovative practice, where teachers constantly inquire into the aims of their work, their success criteria are and whether the effects of their actions are in accordance with their intentions. Together they engage in critical thinking around their teaching practice and come up with creative and innovative solutions to tackle the diverse challenges. The main aim is always the performance and the well-being of students and pupils.

Finally, collaborative teaching focuses on going beyond single subjects to enhance critical thinking, holistic understanding of e.g. current societal and environmental challenges and ensure that students are able to develop creative solutions using competences from different subjects.



### What it is not...

We have made this package based on numerous conversations with many schools from all over Europe. We anticipate that quite some of them will join (and some will request Erasmus+ funding). Yet a small number of schools, that did have some experience with collaborative teaching, mentioned some critique. For that reason, we would like to stress that collaborative teaching, in our way of working, is not a “one size fits all”; It is an approach that carefully has to be adjusted and embedded in the schools, based on dialogue with the various stakeholders (teachers, managers, etc.). So, we do not propose one specific way, a completely new curriculum, or a way of cutting budgets. Instead, we introduce theories, suggest different working approaches and facilitate that groups of participants set their own objectives and make plans together on how to bring it back to their specific context, and then we let the participating schools take it further thereafter.



The package consists of the following three central courses..

- [Collaborative management](#) – this course is for (teams of) managers at schools working on implementing collaborative teaching and focuses on setting the direction, defining the aims, building the leadership team and defining the task of the leadership team in the process
- [Collaborative teaching](#) – this course is for (teams of) teachers and focuses on going beyond the single subject, focusing on 21<sup>st</sup> century competences, deprivatizing teaching practice and facilitating team meetings that go beyond coordination and towards reflection and innovation

- [Collaborative student support](#) – this course is for teachers, head-teachers and counsellors who work directly with students and classes in difficulties or with teams of teachers. The focus is on creating a more reflective practice amongst teachers to offer better support to the students.

Furthermore, we recommend interested schools to look at the following open courses, that do not specifically focus on collaborative teaching, but which will supplement the work:

- [Leadership retreat](#) - this retreat targets (teams of) senior managers/leaders who wish to take time to reflect upon their leadership challenges and receive coaching and guidance on their specific cases
- [Monitoring & evaluation](#) - this course focuses on planning and conducting participatory evaluations. The participants work in groups on a tailored plan that fits the strategic goals of their organisations. They can therefore tailor their work to e.g. collaborative teaching or 21<sup>st</sup> century competences.
- [Clear leadership](#) - this course is for managers, project managers and head teachers who have to lead teams and would like to develop their team coaching competences

If interest exists, [other open courses can possibly be added](#).

### Erasmus+ funding/ project...

Schools can apply for Erasmus+ funding to get almost all costs covered for attending our courses in this Collaborative Teaching offer. We will assist schools with their application, as schools that are interested in participating in the courses of this package, can design an Erasmus+ funded project, where with one application all participants can receive funding. [Have a look this page](#) to find out more on the Erasmus+ funding programme, and of course, email us at [info@in-dialogue.org](mailto:info@in-dialogue.org), especially when you would like to receive assistance with the Erasmus+ funding process. We have quite some experience with that programme, so can shorten your work on an application significantly!



### Contact...

If you are interested in joining this course package, do send us an email at [info@in-dialogue.org](mailto:info@in-dialogue.org) or call us at +31 30 32 00 851