Addressing Educators' Professional Development

Professional Development Opportunities on www.SecondChanceEducation.eu

All teachers are concerned about their teaching practices and the skills involved in this process. How many times have you wondered about a better way to teach the same lesson? How often have you used technology to engage your students and improve their learning? These are some recurring questions that keep arising each time our teaching skills are put to the test.
In many countries, not just across Europe but the rest of the world, the roles of schools are changing as is what is expected of teachers. Teachers are asked to teach in increasingly diverse classrooms, asked to place greater emphasis on integrating students with special learning needs and to make more effective use of information and communication technologies including online learning. They need to engage more in planning within evaluative and accountability frameworks and to do more to involve parents in schools. No matter how good pre-service training for teachers is, it cannot be expected to prepare teachers for all the challenges they will face throughout their careers.

A Database of Opportunities for Teachers and Trainers working in Second Chance Schools

The www.SecondChanceEducation.eu database currently contains 30 training possibilities for teachers, trainers and other educators. It is an on-going (and thus growing) resource including a variety of relevant up-to-date training topics and courses with embedded practice, feedback and follow-up support. It comprises both successful online courses, such as the Flipped Classroom Webinar on how to find and use online resources or how to use mobile devices as added value in learning situations, and offline courses such as How to cope with bullying in your learning group, in which an
experienced teacher offers information and an opportunity to ask questions. The courses involve teachers in learning activities that are similar to the ones they will use with their students, which encourage the development of teachers’ learning communities. There is a growing interest in developing schools as learning organisations and in ways for teachers to share their expertise and experience more systematically.

Training items in the database not only relate to teacher educators in second chance schools but also to mentors and educators working in college-based institutions and community settings. The items in the database represent a cross-section of learning practices that can help make learning more effective. These focus on different situations, classroom communities and other key elements of learning practices. This is a rich source of training possibilities for those involved in the education sector and should generate positive returns as Continued Professional Development (CPD) keeps our educators up to date with knowledge, skills and best practice.

**Contribute your Trainings!**

Add your professional development training at www.SecondChanceEducation.eu
As a growing database, we encourage all our users to contribute items so that we remain relevant and up-to-date. Pooling knowledge is always a good start! Have you benefitted from a great CPD training lately? An activity or training that still sticks with you, whose lessons you still employ? It's easy to get started: simply login to your account and then Add Your Own Training. Fill in the required fields, and your training will be added!

Join our Webinar

Reinhold Schiffers is offering another Tuesday evening Skype lecture on **15 March 2016** at 19:00 to interested participants. This time he will guide you through creating a good group atmosphere: "What to do when they feel uncomfortable in a group." Please register your interest by email directly with Mr Schiffers: rschiffers@arcor.de.

Next time...

...we introduce you to a new functionality on the SecondChanceEducation platform: Teacher Assessment. In the meantime, let us know what you think of our Database of Opportunities and receive hand-picked education news: join us on Facebook and Twitter!

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