

# iDecide

## Pilot Exercise: Portugal



### iDecide

#### Main Goals:

To develop an innovative toolkit and an induction course - (face-to-face & on-line) for school leaders and school staff, based on effective principles and processes to promote shared decision making regarding the development, implementation, evaluation and improvement of inclusive policies.

Support evidence-based policy-making which can lead to the reduction of disparities in learning outcomes and marginalisation in schools.

Support the EU in reducing disparities in learning outcomes affecting learners from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Strengthen cooperation & exchange of information and good practices between different areas of Europe.

The pilot took place at school “Escola Básica e Secundária Dr. Mário Fonseca”.

The pilot testing was conducted through a 3-hour focus group discussion, engaging 6 staff members of the school. We have chosen a School that aggregates 3 kindergartens, 7 primary schools and 2 secondary schools. Participating in the pilot were: the school principal, the vice principal, 3 teachers, a psychologist and the iDecide representative.

Participants agreed that the practical tips presented for the activities to be carried out with disadvantaged students are very interesting.



They demonstrate activities that ensure the students’ knowledge, teamwork, sharing of experiences and the experience of working with different groups in order to enrich the learning.

They also care about the knowledge of the school environment, with extracurricular activities, differentiated projects that provide richer and more productive experiences for students and improve their motivation for the school activities.

## Presentation: ET2020

On the 7th of June, Coordinator of the iDecide Project Soula Ioannou, gave a presentation to the Education and Training 2020 Working Group in Brussels. The presentation was an opportunity to showcase the iDecide Project, the work that has been done so far and what the project hopes to achieve on completion.

**Education and Training ET 2020** Education and Training 2020 is the framework for cooperation to achieve EU Commission targeted goals in education and training by the year 2020. ET 2020 is a forum for exchanges of best practices, mutual learning, gathering and dissemination of information and evidence of what works, as well as advice and support for policy reforms.

The feedback from the presentation was very positive, highlighting the potential in iDecide delivering a valuable tool for educational inclusion. The working group are eagerly awaiting the development of the online toolkit and practical tips for teachers and school leaders.



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Dear Colleagues,

The online toolkit for teachers and school leaders is nearing completion and partner countries are preparing for the one-year implementation of the project in schools across Europe.

In this newsletter you will find details of the pilot exercise conducted by each partner country and a presentation to ET2020 in Brussels.

The iDecide Project Team.

## Pilot Exercise: Ireland



The pilot exercise for project iDecide took place at Youthreach Drogheda, LMETB, Ireland. Youthreach is an alternative second level education provision.

The pilot was conducted with 5 teachers/school leaders. The year-long implementation will take place in the same school from September 2017.

It was felt that the toolkit facilitated all staff/teachers taking a uniform approach to issues and management. It can be used as a supporting document

and resource to inform the school approach and ethos of inclusion. The toolkit could be a starting point from which to develop a whole-school approach to inclusion.

The pilot group found the iDecide material particularly useful when applying it to a decision making scenario. All participants found the information extremely useful, stating that it facilitated a process to approaching change and promoting inclusion.



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## Pilot Exercise: Greece



The pilot took place on 16.06.2017 from 09.30 am to 12.30pm. It was held on school premises and included 5 participants. The school was the 24<sup>th</sup> Elementary school, Peristeri, Greece. The primary school has 180 students and 27 staff and is situated in a lower to middle class area of Athens with a high unemployment rate. Of these 180, 10% of students are of Roma origin, but there are also a lot of students of foreign origin and/or mixed marriages.



Five participants contributed to the Greek pilot. Three participants were teachers and two participants were school leaders (principal and vice-principal). One teacher was responsible for the reception class of the school, where she taught mainly migrant and refugee

children while another was responsible for 'parallel support', a school initiative placing uniquely qualified teachers within classrooms to assist students with special requirements (disabilities, learning difficulties, etc.) to follow a class, keep up with the curriculum and homework etc.

All participants felt that the iDecide program truly is of great value to educators be it teachers or school leaders. More specifically, they would use it and will also suggest it to others for use. Participants mentioned that they only thought about such issues when one of their students was a child at risk for marginalization, in which case they devoted hours to search information and decide on how to handle a particular situation. However, the knowledge base that iDecide offers coupled with its practical orientation was judged to be extremely valuable and easy to apply. Participants read through the material and when asked the focus group discussion guide's questions, showed that they could navigate through the material easily and effectively.

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<http://idecide-project.eu/>  
[www.facebook.com/idecide-project](http://www.facebook.com/idecide-project)

## iDecide



iDecide is a three year Erasmus+ Project which aims to develop an innovative toolkit and induction course to support evidence-based policy making that can lead to the reduction of disparities in learning outcomes and marginalization, by supporting school leaders, school staff, and policymakers to engage in shared and inclusive decision making.

By implementing the toolkit and collecting rich data, iDecide aims to understand the complexities of how decisions at school level influence marginalized groups and develop recommendations for policy and practice on how to engage in shared decision making, giving voice to all stakeholders.

## Pilot Exercise: Romania



"Mircea Cel Batran" School in Pitesti is a school institution that provides primary and secondary education services, with a large number of didactic staff (84 teachers) and approximately 10-15 auxiliary members; the number of students is also large, it reaching approximately 1300 students. The most frequently met with category of marginalized students in this school institution is that of students coming from deprived backgrounds, which account for approximately 10% of the total number of students.

The participants that were involved in the piloting exercise are members of the management and the didactic staff from "Mircea Cel Batran" School in Pitesti

The participants manifested great interest in the project iDecide and, more particularly, in its main outcome, that of creating a toolkit to be used by the decision-making levels in a school (and, perhaps, at bigger levels) in order to reduce as much as possible marginalization and to promote

inclusiveness.

The overall finding is that the iDecide toolkit is very comprehensive, coherent and well-structured, with a lot of useful information to be resorted to when it comes to dealing with marginalization. All in all, the idea of gathering the information on marginalized categories/subcategories of students, practical tips (classroom level and school level), generic tips and decisions in a single



place, i.e. the toolkit, was appreciated by the pilot exercise participants, who were satisfied with the possibility of easily consulting the data.

## Pilot Exercise: Cyprus



The Pilot Exercise for the purposes of the iDecide project took place at the Elementary school of Agios Antonios in Nicosia, CYPRUS. MOEC, in collaboration with CARDET and INNOVADE, conducted the pilot exercise on the 22nd June 2017, from 09:00 to 12:00.

The exercise included an overview of the project and its aims, the expected

results and a detailed analysis of the iDecide online and printable toolkit. Overall, 6 school staff members were engaged in the Pilot Exercise, who had the opportunity to review the iDecide toolkit thoroughly and access the online version of the toolkit, using their test accounts.

The Head Teacher and other teachers of the school participated in an in-depth discussion regarding the toolkit, providing their feedback and expressing their thoughts of possible improvements, which can be made. Following the completion of the Pilot Exercise, the school members congratulated the iDecide team for their work so far and said that they are looking forward for the implementation of the toolkit during the upcoming school year.