



EMSTEP

1st Newsletter

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Empowering Teachers. Supporting Inclusion. Shaping Classrooms.

How can teachers better support vulnerable students in today's diverse classrooms?

The EMSTEP project is tackling this challenge head-on by bringing together partners from across Europe to strengthen inclusive teaching practices through innovation, collaboration, and professional development.

Over the past six months, EMSTEP has officially launched, built a strong international partnership, and taken its first major steps toward transforming classroom practice.



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KA220 SCH - Cooperation partnerships in School Education
Empowering Middle School Teachers for Social Inclusion through Observation-based Professional Development.
2023-2-TR01-KA220-SCH-000170568

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First Transnational Meeting: Svishtov, Bulgaria

Dates: Sep 03, 2024 – Sep 05, 2024

The Svishtov meeting served as the project's official launchpad.

- Collaborative Sessions: Partners discussed management structures, budget, and the first versions of the observation tools.
- Community Engagement: The team visited local schools and met with Bulgarian school principals and local government representatives to discuss the project's regional impact.
- Visual Identity: The project's official logo and visual identity manual were presented and approved.



Partners at D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics



Meeting with local school principals and Svishtov municipality representatives

At a glance

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP ESTABLISHED ACROSS EUROPE

- Development of innovative classroom observation tools underway
- Digital Learning Platform (DLP) in progress
- First transnational meeting successfully held in Bulgaria

WHAT WE AIM TO ACHIEVE

EMSTEP focuses on closing the gap in teachers' skills for supporting vulnerable learners:

- Develop 15 innovative observation tools for inclusive classrooms
- Promote peer learning and reflective teaching practices
- Build a multilingual Digital Learning Platform
- Strengthen long-term European collaboration in education



WHAT WE ACHIEVED SO FAR

Since its launch at the D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics, the EMSTEP project has rapidly moved from conceptual planning to tangible action. The kickoff meeting in Svishtov was vital for synchronizing partner roles and establishing a management structure, but its true value lay in the direct dialogue with local educators. These conversations confirmed a critical need for accessible, practical resources, ensuring that the project's mission of fostering inclusive education is driven by the lived experiences of school leaders and community stakeholders.

Currently, the team is hard at work developing a comprehensive Digital Learning Platform alongside a versatile classroom observation toolkit. These resources, which include narrative guides and checklists available in seven languages, are designed to support diverse educational environments. With diagnostic frameworks already being piloted across 18 schools, the project is exploring key areas like transformational leadership and data-driven improvement. This groundwork paves the way for the launch of specialized teacher training programs in April 2025, leading into a full implementation phase and the establishment of Professional Learning Plans through 2026.



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EMSTEP PARTNERS

Ege University (Türkiye) – Lead Partner

Located in the dynamic city of Izmir, Ege University is a prestigious higher education institution with a rich history of fostering academic innovation and pedagogical advancement. The university offers a diverse array of comprehensive study programs across multiple disciplines, empowering educators and students with the theoretical foundation and practical methodologies necessary for modern learning environments.



With a massive, vibrant student body and a vast network of esteemed academic professionals, Ege University has cemented its reputation as a leader in Turkish higher education. It is internationally recognized for its commitment to comprehensive educational frameworks and strong institutional research, fostering an environment where theoretical knowledge seamlessly meets practical application.


In the EMSTEP project, Ege University serves as the Lead Partner, driving overall project coordination and advancing teacher education. By guiding the consortium's strategic vision, the university ensures that the project's objectives are met, playing a fundamental role in shaping the future of innovative pedagogical practices across Europe.



EMSTEP PARTNERS

MeWe – Italy

Rooted in Italy's dynamic educational and professional sector, MeWe is a forward-thinking organization dedicated to bridging the gap between innovative research and practical application. The institution focuses heavily on professional growth and modern learning strategies, equipping educators and practitioners with the agile skills required to thrive in a rapidly evolving educational landscape.

 Backed by a dedicated network of specialists and researchers, MeWe has established a strong track record for delivering high-impact training initiatives. It is widely recognized for its dedication to designing progressive methodologies that transform traditional teaching paradigms into engaging, learner-centered experiences.

In the EMSTEP project, MeWe acts as the core expert in innovative research and professional development strategies. By leveraging its deep understanding of professional growth, MeWe ensures that educators are equipped with cutting-edge methodologies, driving sustainable improvement and research-backed practices within the initiative.



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Academia – Slovenia’s Hub of Innovation and Learning

Located in the vibrant city of Maribor, Academia is a higher vocational college with over 25 years of experience in connecting education with real-world practice. The institution offers modern study programs in business, media production, computer science, civil and mechanical engineering, and security engineering, empowering students with the knowledge and practical skills needed in today’s fast-changing industries.

With more than 400 students from across the world and over 100 professional mentors, Academia has built a strong reputation for quality education and innovation. It proudly holds Slovenia’s National Excellence Award and is recognised internationally for its hands-on approach, where students spend up to 40% of their studies working directly in companies and labs.

In the EMSTEP project, Academia leads the Dissemination Work Package, Communication, and Visual Identity of the project, ensuring that the project’s achievement tools, and best practices reach teachers and communities across Europe. Through its e-Academia digital platform and active collaborations, the institution plays a key role in promoting sustainable education, digital transformation, and gender inclusion in vocational training.



EMSTEP PARTNERS

D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics (Bulgaria)

Situated in Svishtov, the D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics is a distinguished higher education institution with a long-standing tradition of excellence in economic and pedagogical sciences. The Academy offers robust programs that integrate rigorous academic theory with practical application, empowering future leaders and educators with the critical skills needed for today's complex educational sectors.

Serving thousands of ambitious students and supported by a highly qualified academic faculty, the Academy has built a formidable reputation for quality education in the Balkans. It is celebrated for its structured approach to institutional learning and its commitment to producing graduates and research that directly benefit public sector development.

In the EMSTEP project, the D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics takes charge of coordinating teacher training and developing the Professional Learning Handbook. Through this vital role, the Academy ensures that educators across the partnership have access to standardized, high-quality training resources, laying the foundation for continuous professional learning and curriculum enhancement.



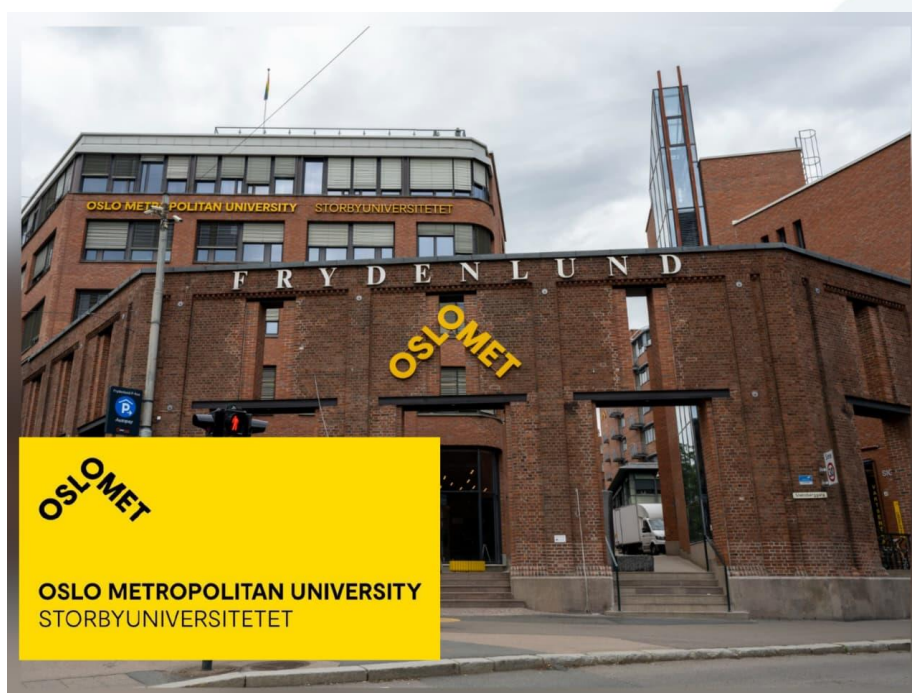
EMSTEP PARTNERS

Oslo Metropolitan University (Norway)

Located in the heart of Norway's capital, Oslo Metropolitan University (OsloMet) is a premier modern university renowned for its strong focus on applied sciences and evidence-based practice. The institution provides cutting-edge programs spanning education, health, technology, and social sciences, dedicated to equipping students and professionals with the tools to solve complex, real-world challenges.

With a diverse, international academic community and a wealth of renowned researchers, OsloMet stands out for its progressive, Nordic approach to education. It is internationally highly regarded for its deep commitment to societal impact, ensuring that its research and teaching directly contribute to a more sustainable, equitable, and well-managed society.

In the EMSTEP project, OsloMet leverages its pedagogical expertise by developing classroom observation tools and comprehensive leadership modules. By creating these critical frameworks, the university empowers educational leaders and teachers to assess, reflect upon, and elevate their instructional practices, fostering a culture of continuous improvement.





EMSTEP PARTNERS

University of Porto (Portugal)

Nestled in the historic and vibrant city of Porto, the University of Porto is one of Portugal's most prestigious and comprehensive higher education institutions. The university offers an expansive range of high-quality programs, seamlessly connecting rigorous academic inquiry with societal needs to empower the next generation of educators, scientists, and innovators.

Home to a vast community of local and international students, as well as top-tier research institutes, the University of Porto has earned a stellar reputation on the global stage. It is consistently recognized for its dedication to scientific advancement and its inclusive, human-centric approach to teaching, which prioritizes accessibility and diverse learning environments.

In the EMSTEP project, the University of Porto provides vital research expertise in inclusive education and teacher training. By leading evidence-based research initiatives, the university plays an essential role in ensuring that the project's educational frameworks are highly effective, equitable, and capable of addressing the diverse needs of all learners throughout the European educational ecosystem.



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FOLLOW US



Follow the EMSTEP journey as we continue working to make classrooms more inclusive, collaborative, and effective across Europe.

Empowering teachers. Enabling inclusion. Inspiring change.



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