



Basic Education Higher Education and Training



Media Advisory

On Thursday 6 October the Minister of Basic Education, Mrs Angie Motshekga, together with European Union Ambassador Marcus Cornaro will launch four EU grant-funded projects that are aimed at improving teaching and learning in the areas of Early Childhood Development (ECD), Inclusive Education (IE) and Special Education Needs (SEN).

In response to the need to support the practical implementation of South Africa's positive ECD, IE and SEN education policies, the EU Delegation launched a call for proposals for Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in September 2015. There is a valuable role for CSOs to support the education system in specific areas based on their experience and knowledge.

Under the overall aim of the Teaching and Learning Development Programme between the EU and South Africa, the objectives and the priorities of the call were agreed with the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) and focus on partnering and building capacity within Higher Education Institutions to strengthen the teacher education system, through research, programme and materials development.

Four consortiums have been awarded grants for a total EU support of €3,000,000 (R45,000,000). The EU support totals 80% of the projects' budgets with the CSOs contributing a further 20%.

The overall objective of the collaboration is to introduce a new era of teacher professional development that will effectively respond to Government's vision of a fully inclusive education system by 2021.

Members of the media are invited to attend:

Thursday, 6 October 2016, 11:00 – 13:30
Department of Basic Education
Conference Centre
Sol Plaatje House
222 Struben Street
Pretoria

About the grant recipients:

The British Council for Teaching for All – Mainstreaming Inclusive Education in South Africa. The overall objective is to contribute to a more inclusive teacher education system in South Africa through partnerships with universities. The partners of the action are British Council, MIET Africa, University of South Africa and Department of Basic Education as an associate partner.

Vlaamse Vereniging Voor Ontwikkelingssamenwerking en Technische Bijstand VZW (VVOB) for Teaching and Learning for Inclusive Education. The overall objective is to improve

learning outcomes for all children in South Africa, including learners experiencing barriers to learning, through the provision of quality differentiated education by suitably skilled and qualified teachers. The partners of the action are VVOB, Inclusive Education South Africa, North-West University, University of the Free State and University of the Witwatersrand.

University of South Africa for Teaching and Learning for Early Learning and Inclusive Education. The overall objective here is to develop and strengthen collaborative and innovative partnerships between Higher Education Institutions, Early Childhood Development CSOs and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges to review, design, develop and pilot teacher education programmes. The partners of the action are UNISA, Bridge Innovation in Learning PTY LTD, Rhodes University and SAIDE.

Christoffel – Blindenmission Germany for Strengthening Teaching for Children with Profound Hearing, Visual and Intellectual Disabilities and Early Childhood Development in South Africa. The overall objective is to improve the quality of teaching for children with profound disabilities and contribute to improving the quality of their lives. The partners of the action are Christoffel-Blindenmission and the University of Cape Town.

Enquiries:

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