

2015 INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT ON THE TEACHING PROFESSION COUNTRY UPDATE ON 2014 GOALS

GERMANY

According to the final report of the ISTP 2014, the following goals for Germany were expressed:

“Germany’s goal is to provide every child with the necessary support to reach the highest level of education. In particular, they propose to upgrade scientifically-based teacher training to give teachers the knowledge, skills, and time to provide individual support to every child, and to improve schools through better collaboration between government and education unions.”

Progress since ISTP 2014

One of the main education policy objectives in the Länder in recent years has been the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, ratified by Germany in 2009. In this process, the guiding principle has been to foster the strengths and interests, the self-determination and the participation in the society of the individual child. As these objectives significantly extend the concept of pedagogical work, fundamental changes in teacher training have become necessary.

In order to prepare teachers for their work in inclusive schools, an obligatory basic module for inclusion has been introduced in initial training for all types of teaching. Special emphasis is put on didactical and pedagogical basic qualifications in the areas of dealing with heterogeneity and inclusion and on the foundations of support diagnostics. Moreover, the Standing Conference has revised its Standard for Teacher Training accordingly.

Currently, the “Common Content Requirements for Subject-related Studies and Subject-related Didactics in Teacher Training” (Decision of the Standing Conference of 2008) are being revised in collaboration with researchers, teacher unions and professional societies while giving special attention to the topic of inclusion.

In 2014 the Federal Government and the Länder agreed on a Quality Initiative in Teacher Training which aims to improve the quality of initial teacher training at higher education institutions. Starting from 2015, for a period of ten years, the Federal Government will support higher education institutions with up to €500 million to develop innovative approaches for teacher training in Germany and to further enhance its quality. The program shall also contribute to strengthening the status of teacher training at higher education institutions.