
Big Questions Need Integrated Answers:
A European Theory-Practice Collaboration for Adaptive Teaching (**E-ADAPT**)

Project duration: 2021-2024

Steering Committee (Project partners):

- Prof. Dr. Ulrich Trautwein, Hector Research Institute of Education Sciences and Psychology, University of Tübingen (Network Coordination)
- Prof. Dr. Anne Sliwka, University of Heidelberg, Institut für Bildungswissenschaft
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Starting point

- **Low student performance:** For more than 20 years, international comparative studies have regularly shown that many students in European countries do not have the key basic skills in literacy and numeracy they need to participate fully in society.
- **Part of the solution - adaptive teaching:** The main focus of this project is on adaptive teaching that succeeds in continuously supporting ALL learners to reach their full potential. Adaptive teaching offers enormous opportunities for individualised support. Major advances in assessment, teaching quality and digitalization provide the basis for effective adaptive teaching not only as a vision, but also in practice. However, two challenges prevent further progress:
 - **Lack of empirical evidence:** So far, there is little empirical evidence regarding the appropriate implementation and effectiveness of adaptive teaching.
 - **Research-practice gap:** Successful adaptive teaching requires intensive cooperation between research and practice. Too little knowledge is being transferred from research to practice, and at the same time the expertise from practice only reaches educational research to a very limited extent. New forms of collaboration are needed.
- **The need for a European Collaboration:** Other European countries, such as Finland or Estonia, are far ahead of Germany and Switzerland in the consistent introduction and research on adaptive settings. For ethical, pedagogical and economic reasons, there is a need for further European research efforts in collaboration with school practice in order to understand the conditions for success of adaptive teaching and to improve the quality of practical implementation.

Goals

- The implementation of adaptive teaching should be considered as a joint European project. The project uses interdisciplinarity and international cooperation by bringing together expertise at European level. It aims to build a strong and sustainable network of research and education administration that works in a collaborative and co-constructive way.
- Beyond the exchange, it is a central aim of the project to achieve sustainable results – in the form of "standards" for the cooperation of research and education administration, a trans-European sustainable scientific network with the participation of education administration as well as through committed communication of the results of the project (video clips, town hall meetings).

- E-ADAPT aims to provide support for early career researchers and is intended to form the basis for a stronger participation in the EU Horizon Europe programme.

Action plan

E-ADAPT allows the project partners to learn from each other and to be involved in three connected fields of action at the same time:

- Development of quality standards for cooperation between research and education administration;
- scientific cooperation, joint publications as well as the development of a European research network on adaptive teaching;
- intensive exchange with policy makers and interested public through video channel, town hall meetings and publications in outlets close to the public.

Project partners

- More than thirty partners from research and practice from seven European countries contribute to E-ADAPT.
- All partners involved show specific forms of cooperation between research and education administration and practice, so that all partners can learn from each other.
- Leading researchers from all countries with national and international visibility on the topics of adaptivity and teaching quality will be involved. This optimal selection increases the likelihood of success of further applications on a European level.
- The project is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education. The cooperation with the Jacobs Foundation in Zurich makes the participation of Swiss partners in the network possible.

Advantages for the project participants

The core idea of the project is to build a lively and active network that enables the systematic exchange of existing knowledge (e.g. forms of cooperation, data, processes). The focus is on the opportunity to exchange with colleagues throughout Europe and to learn from each other:

a. For the participating researchers

Annual conferences at attractive conference locations, lab visits at home and abroad, scientific exchange on standards of excellence, joint scientific publications, participation in funding initiatives, contacts with decision-makers from politics and education administration.

b. For the education administration

Contact with leading educational researchers from Europe, joint projects to analyse existing data sets and to promote effective designs of teaching/learning settings, development of standards to improve cooperation between educational practice, science and politics.

Central project events until mid 2022

January 2022 Online kick-off and first getting to know each other
 May 2022 Project opening, Marbach Castle on Lake Constance