



TEACHING  
FOR ALL

# AFRICA-EUROPE CONFERENCE ON HIGHER EDUCATION COLLABORATION

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INVESTING IN PEOPLE, BY INVESTING IN HIGHER EDUCATION AND SKILLS IN AFRICA



## TEACHING FOR ALL: MAINSTREAMING INCLUSIVE EDUCATION IN SOUTH AFRICA

*Teaching for All* is a curriculum and materials development project that provides teachers with the skills, attitude and knowledge to teach inclusively in diverse South African classrooms. The curriculum and materials will be implemented in partnership across the country by South African higher education institutions and provincial education departments.

### WHAT DIFFERENCE WILL *TEACHING FOR ALL* MAKE?

All children have the ability to learn and have the right to quality education to enable them to reach their full potential. In South Africa, despite the substantial gains made in education since 1994, many children continue to be marginalised due to a range of barriers making them vulnerable to education exclusion. Children often face more than one obstacle and have to contend with a web of inter-related barriers at intrinsic, pedagogic, systemic and societal levels. Some are denied access whilst many pass through the school system, or drop out, with learning difficulties and other barriers unrecognised and unsupported.

Teachers have a pivotal role to play in the transformation of South Africa's education system into an inclusive and equitable quality-driven one that recognises and responds effectively to learner diversity. *Teaching for All* aims to strengthen the capacity of pre-service and in-service teachers to play this role, thereby contributing to a more inclusive education system.

#### Key deliverables are

- A comprehensive and collaborative research report on *The State of Inclusive Education in South Africa and the Implications for Teacher Development Programmes*
- A 24-credit NQF Level 6 module and materials for Bachelor of Education and Post-graduate Certificate in Education programmes - *Teaching for All: Inclusive Teaching and Learning for South Africa*
- South African Council for Educators endorsed short courses and support materials for continuing professional development



### WHAT MAKES *TEACHING FOR ALL* DISTINCTIVE?

#### It is a product of collaborative partnerships and broad engagement

A broad range of stakeholders have been consulted from government departments, universities and civil society organisations. Writers include practitioners, policymakers, academics and global experts with comprehensive knowledge of inclusive education in theory and in practice.

#### It is based on extensive research and ongoing review

*Teaching for All* is informed by research conducted with pre- and in-service teachers countrywide, and a review of existing policy and programmes. Materials are appraised by peers in academia and officials from the Department of Basic Education, and piloted with lecturers and students at tertiary institutions. Ongoing monitoring and evaluation conducted by an external technical team ensures quality and relevance.

#### The aim is a systemic impact

Underpinning *Teaching for All* is the conviction that inclusivity is intrinsic to equitable teaching and learning for all children. The curriculum has been developed as a core module for pre-service teachers rather than an elective. Implementation grants support the module's integration into the universities' curricula, so that inclusivity is mainstreamed as a fundamental approach for all graduating teachers. Short courses for continued professional development, produced in consultation with the provincial education departments, will strengthen the practice of in-service teachers.

#### The approach and methodology are innovative and distinctly South African

*Teaching for All* is uniquely South African — grounded in the human rights movement with a strengths-based approach and the philosophy of Ubuntu at its core. The teaching strategies and multi-media supporting materials are developed for teachers in South African classrooms. *Teaching for All* materials will be freely available as open educational resources hosted on an online platform and available in a range of modes, including distance and face-to-face learning. The materials model the inclusive practices they teach, ensuring they accommodate the diversity of pre- and in-service teacher needs across the country.

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The success of Teaching for All relies on multi-sector partnerships committed to providing quality education for all learners:



Basic Education  
Higher Education and Training



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