

Project European Cities against Social Segregation-Multiplier Event.

Meeting at the City hall in Oslo Wednesday 7 December 2022

This was the second multiplier event in Oslo. A total of 19 participants took part in the meeting.

Invitations were sent to relevant actors: teacher organisations, parents' organisation, researchers in the field, students, organisations working on integration policy and to colleagues in the local administration.

We sent the following agenda to participants in advance:

1. Information about the ECASS project (se www.ecass.eu)
2. Demonstration and presentation of the web page and the products from ECASS.
3. How is Oslo similar/unsimilar to the other cities according to admission to primary schools, segregation and city planning.
4. How can information and results from ECASS be developed and implemented?
5. Discussion, questions and answers.

During and after the presentations the participants had questions and comments to the project and reflection on the situation in Oslo.

The teacher unions were concerned about the increasing segregation among schools and was critical to the possibility in the regulation to enter schools in another catchment area. The argue that this can lead to a "brain drain" from the most deprived areas since the families with less resources are not aware of the possibility to change schools from their own catchment area.

Oslo has grown quickly over the recent years. It has been a lot of pressure on schools and a need to develop existing buildings and build new schools. In large urban projects, schools are just one of many services and all services have to be linked and planned together. The Urban planning and development department mentioned that even if they have the main responsibility for total project, they are not responsible for schools. Hence, today it takes longer time to plan and build schools than before, and it challenges the capacity at existing catchment areas.

It was underlined that admission regulation to schools cannot solve the challenges of segregation in the city alone. It must be analysed in relation to other aspects of city planning, in particular residential development.

Representatives from teachers' and students' unions mentioned that the City's policy on publishing detailed information on schools (results of national tests, share of students with special education needs, share of students receiving support in Norwegian language) is problematic. They see no added value by making this information public.

A majority of the participants wanted to follow up the issues raised in the meeting in their own organisation, and we stressed that we were available for any comments and/or follow-ups in the future.