

# NEMED

## Network of Multigrade Education

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*NEMED is supported by the European Commission in the framework of the Socrates Programme - Comenius 3 Action*



***"The choice in favour of multigrade schools is often a choice between education or no education. They are not a second-class solution".***

*Etienne Brunswic & Jean Valérien (2004). Multigrade Schools. UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning.*

### **What is NEMED?**

NEMED is a transnational network bringing together educationalists and researchers from ten European countries who share an interest in researching, enhancing and supporting multi-grade education.

### **What is 'multigrade' education?**

In multigrade schools teachers work with more than one curriculum grade at the same time, in the same class.



In many parts of the world, both developing and industrialised, multigrade schools play an important role in providing access to 'Education for All'. They are also more than a reality in primary education in many parts of Europe. Their role is crucial, as they provide isolated communities in remote and disadvantaged areas with pedagogy and community service of good standards. Nevertheless, due to geographical peculiarities and other socio-economic oddities, multigrade schools typically constitute a neglected aspect of education systems.

### **The aims of NEMED**

The NEMED Network aims to:

- Perform an extended survey on multigrade teaching and learning issues as well as on the conditions pertaining to multigrade education in Europe (including levels of existence of multigrade education, teacher needs, national policies on multigrade education, etc).
- Offer specialized support and training to multigrade school teachers connected with the network, while also assisting the communication among remote multigrade schools.
- Evaluate the application of ICT-based methodologies and practices addressed to multigrade schools.
- Stimulate an effort to bring multigrade education to the policy front, and thus contribute to the upgrading of multigrade teaching and learning.
- Make specific suggestions concerning the improvement of multigrade education at the European level.
- Create the conditions for the sustainability and expansion of the network.



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## The methodology of NEMED

The main methodological 'unit' of the NEMED network is the working group.

Project activities are methodologically structured around the concept of dedicated focus groups researching diverse aspects of multigrade education. The groups work independently, but periodically also meet and exchange ideas, opinions and outcomes, so as to make the best use of knowledge and research evidence. To this end, and in addition to regular project meetings, NEMED is organizing workshops which allow participants to combine and share experiences of the work undertaken by the working groups, and specify further steps to be taken.

There are six working groups, each one focusing on one of the following topics:

- ICT for multigrade schools
- Classroom management in multigrade schools
- Society, cultures, and the multigrade school
- Learning modes in the multigrade classroom
- Educational resources development for the multigrade school
- Policies for multigrade education.

Importantly, the main target group is directly involved in the activities of the network: A number of multigrade schools from each participating country are selected by the network partners and participate in the research as 'connected schools'.

Eventually, based on reports from the working groups, the NEMED network is going to develop and distribute an overall 'Report on Multigrade Education' to policy-makers, including recommendations for specific measures for the upgrading of multigrade education at the European level.

## The NEMED web portal

At the web address [www.nemed-project.org](http://www.nemed-project.org) the core node of the network's function is to be found. In addition to information provided about the project, a specially designed, integrated Web Educational & Networking Portal serves all networks actors by facilitating communication and exchange, sharing of information and conducting of research, as well as provision of professional support and training to multigrade school teachers.



## Project Number

114323-CP-1-2004-1-GR-COMENIUS-C3PP

## Programme

SOCRATES

## Action

COMENIUS 3

## Start Date

01/10/2004

## End Date

30/09/2007

## Key Words

multigrade education, teachers, training, professional development, network

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European Distance and e-Learning Network



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