



Dear IEJEE Readers,

This is the fifth special issue of International Electronic Journal of Elementary Education since 2008. This volume is devoted to Multilingualism and Multilingual Education in the Nordic Countries which is also the title of the issue. In 2011, Dr. Siv Björklund from University of Vaasa, Finland, launched the idea of initiating a comparative research project aiming at establishing a network of Nordic researchers with the view of informing each other about what is going on within the field of multilingualism and multilingual education in the four Nordic countries, Finland, Sweden, Denmark and Norway. Five other active researchers from these countries responded positively to her idea and the Network for Researchers of Multilingualism and Multilingual Education (RoMME) was established. Dr. Siv Björklund was chosen to be the project manager. RoMME applied and received funding for a three-year-project (2011-2013) from NordForsk, an organization which under the auspices of the Nordic Council of Ministers provides funding for Nordic research cooperation.

The aims of the RoMME-network were:

- to provide in-depth knowledge about linguistic diversity and multilingualism in education in the Nordic countries both from a linguistic and a pedagogical point of view
- to develop a holistic and cross-professional research paradigm
- to provide PhD students with up-to-date knowledge about research in the Nordic countries and to challenge them to step outside monolingual biased research/language development paradigms
- to provide an easily accessible source of research-based knowledge in multilingual and -cultural education for authorities and decision makers

During the project period, we invited and included several doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers to the RoMME-network. The network arranged researcher-seminars and doctoral courses each of the four countries. The first one was in Vaasa, Finland, hosted by the Åbo Akademi University. The second seminar was organized by the University of Oslo, Norway, the third one was at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark, the fourth seminar was arranged by Stockholm University, Sweden. The closing seminar will, once more, be arranged in Vaasa in November 2013, but this time hosted by the University of Vaasa. The seminars provided opportunities for researchers to get to know each other, to become familiar with each other's research and to establish contacts for future networking. At each seminar, in addition to the presentations by RoMME-members, invited international and Nordic guests presented current research on multilingualism and multilingual education. The RoMME-network inspired us to come up with a special issue of IEJEE, as a scholarly product of the seminars. Fifteen out of the about twenty-five participating researchers or doctoral students have contributed to this issue. On behalf of RoMME, I want to thank NordForsk, the Nordic Council of Ministers for the funding of our project.

As the Editor-In-Chief of IEJEE, I want to express my gratitude to all the participants in the RoMME-network and especially to those of them who contributed to this special issue of International Electronic Journal of Elementary Education (IEJEE). Dr. Siv

Björklund, as project manager, and Dr. Mikaela Björklund, as coordinator, have done a great job. Thanks a lot Siv and Mikaela! Thanks also to the editorial board of this issue, my highly esteemed Nordic colleagues. My deepest gratitude also goes to Dr. Turan Temur, Dr. Gökhan Özsoy and Hasan Tabak, H. Gül Kuruyer without their generous help it would be impossible to be one of the internationally well-known scientific electronic journals.

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