

Key Highlights from SELFIE: implications for peer-to-peer mentoring

Overview: the use of SELFIE within the MenSI project presents a practical illustration of the way in which synergies between EU-funded project outputs can offer potential support for sustainability development. Identifying areas of potential similarity (scientific or operational) can assist in adding further value to existing outcomes of projects. Furthermore, the re-purposing of knowledge or procedures ensures that the value-for-money principle is maintained. Finally, the adoption of SELFIE as a data-collection procedure results in a reciprocally enhanced credibility for associated projects. In so doing such collaboration assists in advancing the profile of the European Education Area by demonstrating its objective of working together to build more resilient and inclusive education and training systems.

Characteristics of MenSI's use of SELFIE can be summarised under four headings, each of which highlights common issues identified in feedback from the project's country partners. These are as follows:

Advantages

- Increased collaboration (in schools and between schools, teachers, and leaders)
- Assists in bridging the equity gap through non-discriminatory access to education
- Trusted self-assessment tool to secure baseline data

Lessons Learned

- Leadership buy-in is crucial to success
- Shared national plan for roll out of digital technology is essential
- Schools need to be self-motivated and see a purpose for data collection
- Most teachers (like most children) learn best when collaborating
- Most teachers (like most children) learn best when best-practice is modelled
- School-based 'director' is an essential for effectiveness

Challenges

- Time constraints and busy teacher schedules
- Different levels of technology and connectivity
- Schools were unfamiliar with the concept and needed significant scaffolding
- Little progress seen in infrastructure and equipment because of funding

Some Interesting Observations...

- Face-to-face learning and sharing are still the preferred option of cooperation
- Self-Assessment remains a new concept for many schools & systems
- SELFIE not universally used, even in some MenSI partner countries.
- They call it a 'test' but it is a gap analysis tool (that could be a translation thing)
- Less buy in for the second SELFIE – is this a case of SELFIE-fatigue?