

TUTOR

Teachers' upskilling aiming at a holistic inclusivity in learning



Teachers' Academy for Inclusive Education

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Empowering Inclusive Teaching: TUTOR Teachers' Mobility Week in Vienna

From July 14 to 18, 2025, Vienna welcomed educators from Austria, Ireland, Turkey and Greece for one of the mobility weeks within the TUTOR project. Teachers from all educational levels came together to expand their perspectives on inclusive education and to explore concrete strategies for fostering equity in the classroom. Organised by die Berater and ÖJAB, the seminar week contributed to the TUTOR project's core goal: strengthening teachers' capacity to respond to diversity with awareness, openness and professional confidence. The mobility was part of a series of learning events designed to bring educators across Europe into dialogue and to create shared understandings around inclusion in secondary education.

Centred around the themes of LGBTQI+ inclusion, migrant identity and socio-economic discrimination, the programme offered a balanced mix of theoretical input, practical workshops and on-site learning opportunities. Participants engaged in a memory and identity workshop at QWIEN, took part in a guided city walk exploring exclusion in urban spaces, and visited organisations such as the Q:WIR Youth Centre and the LGBTQI+ bookshop Löwenherz. Further sessions addressed gender diversity, the social effects of discrimination and anti-racist approaches to teaching. Discussions were complemented by cultural experiences, such as visits to the House of Austrian History and the Vienna Museum, which added historical and social context to the topics addressed. Informal spaces such as shared lunches and social dinners helped to deepen the exchange and foster group cohesion.

The week proved to be both enriching and thought-provoking. Participants highlighted the value of international dialogue, the opportunity to discover new methods and perspectives, and the inspiring atmosphere that encouraged critical reflection. Many became more aware of aspects of exclusion they had not previously considered and returned home with renewed motivation, practical tools and strengthened connections across borders. The Vienna mobility week offered not only knowledge and experience, but also moments of inspiration and solidarity that will continue to resonate in participants' teaching practice.

Warm regards,

The Vienna TUTOR Team



Thematic Focus:

1. Socio-economic Discrimination



On Tuesday, July 15, participants explored the dynamics of social inequality in education. The day began with a city walk titled “Nimmerland”, guiding the group through public spaces that reflect social exclusion. This was followed by a mini workshop for reflection. In the afternoon, a talk on “The Limits of Inclusion and the Social Uses of Insult” deepened the understanding of language and power in educational contexts. The day concluded with a workshop on anti-racism facilitated by Chantal Bamgbala from the initiative Disrupt, providing a courageous space to address structural discrimination.

2. LGBTQI+ Inclusion



The Wednesday programme on July 16 focused on gender diversity and queer perspectives in education. Participants visited the Q:WIR Youth Centre, where they learned about youth work for queer communities, followed by a talk at Löwenherz, Vienna’s long-standing LGBTQI+ bookshop. In the afternoon, a workshop on gender diversity challenged normative assumptions and offered inclusive strategies for classroom practice.

3. Migrant Identity



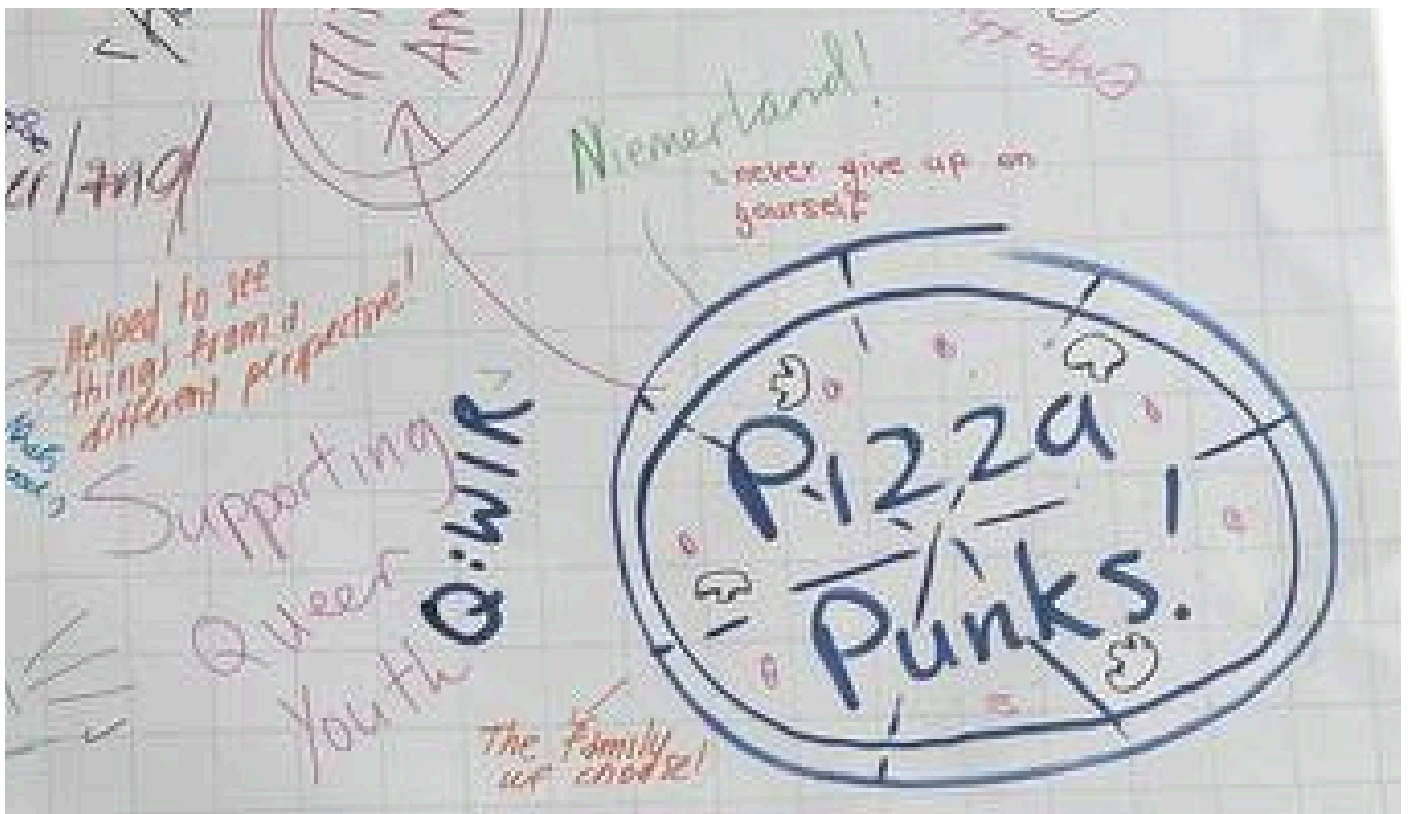
Thursday, July 17 was dedicated to exploring issues of migration and identity. The day started with a workshop and personal testimonials on lived experiences of migration. Participants then visited the House of Austrian History (hdgö), followed by the Vienna Museum, connecting contemporary issues with historical narratives. These experiences highlighted the importance of recognising diverse identities and fostering a sense of belonging in school communities.

Learning through Local Encounters



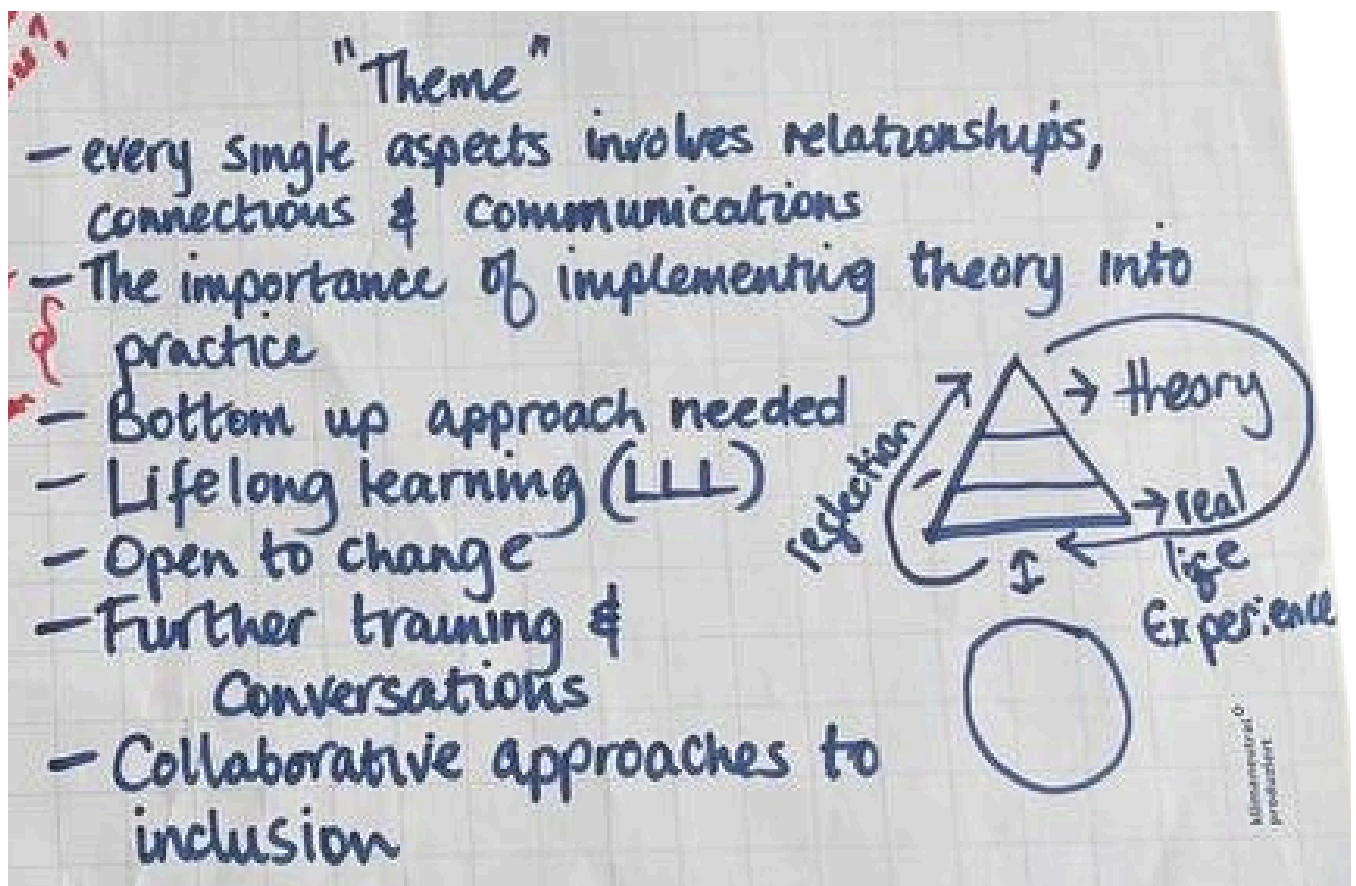
Beyond thematic input and reflection, the Vienna mobility offered hands-on experiences that connected educational topics with real-life perspectives. The city walk “Nimmerland” was a particularly impactful moment. Guided by Martin, who himself lived on the streets of Vienna for many years, the walk led participants through the invisible corners of the city – far from tourist routes and glossy facades.

Martin shared his story of addiction, homelessness and survival in Vienna’s urban spaces. He talked about squatting, the punk community that supported him, and the realities of Austria’s substitution treatment system. This walk was more than a tour – it was an encounter with lived experience that made structural inequality and exclusion tangible. For many participants, it highlighted the urgency of socio-economic inclusion in schools and society at large.



Learning through Local Encounters

Another important stop was the Q:WIR Youth Centre – a safer space for LGBTIQA* youth aged 12 to 27 and their friends. The centre offers a welcoming environment to hang out, cook together, make new connections and co-create programming. Participants had the chance to learn how such spaces support queer young people in their identity development and provide community where schools often fall short. This insight was complemented by a visit to the iconic Löwenherz bookshop – a long-standing institution of Vienna's queer scene. Founded in 1993, Löwenherz offers over 12,000 titles on LGBTQI+ topics and functions as a resource hub, cultural space and safe place for exchange. It has grown from a niche bookshop to a symbol of inclusive literary culture that centres queer voices and communities.



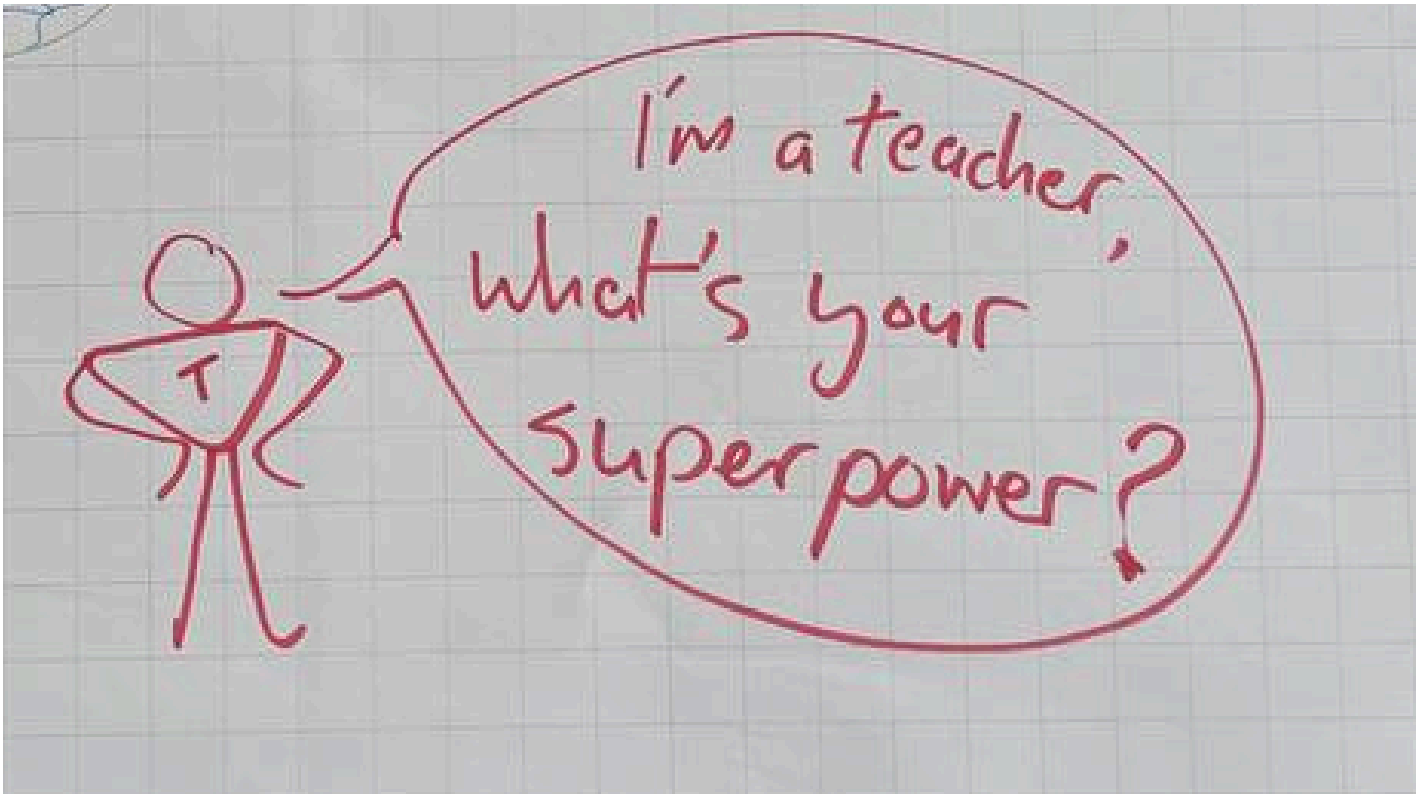
Expanding Perspectives through Dialogue

In addition to field visits, the Vienna mobility included in-depth workshops that encouraged critical reflection and action-oriented thinking. A notable session was led by DISRUPT, a non-partisan non-profit founded by five Black women working in anti-discrimination and anti-racism education. The workshop, facilitated by Chantal Bamgbala, introduced participants to key concepts of racism-critical practice and supported them in analysing their own roles within institutional structures. The session provided space for open dialogue, mutual learning and shared reflection on how power and privilege impact educational contexts.

By linking classroom topics with broader societal challenges, the programme made clear that inclusive education must be a lived and evolving commitment. Participants gained valuable insights from NGOs, youth centres and cultural institutions and appreciated the mix of professional learning and personal encounters. Time for informal exchange and intercultural dialogue helped foster a strong sense of community and belonging throughout the week.



Expanding Perspectives through Dialogue



The Vienna mobility was more than a training – it was a shared experience full of meaningful conversations, new perspectives and practical inspiration. Through the combination of theory and practice, structured input and lived stories, participants left with strengthened skills, lasting memories and a renewed motivation to make inclusion a reality in their schools. The international atmosphere and spirit of solidarity will remain a powerful reference point as they continue their work.