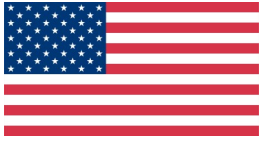
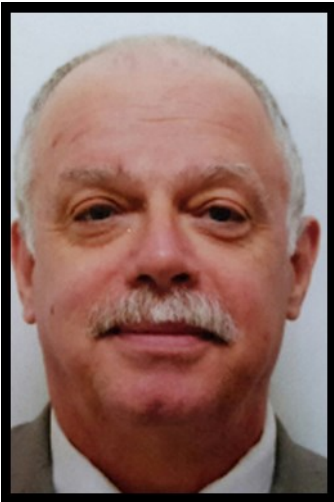


European School Administrator Program

Participant Biographies



France



Jean-Paul Bianchi

Jean-Paul Bianchi is a school inspector in charge of the schooling of non-French speaking migrants and Roma communities from kindergarten to high school. His school district encompasses a 150 mile radius. Mr. Bianchi was previously a teacher and a pedagogical advisor. Before that, he was both a floor waiter in a hotel as well as a salesman. He is a happy father, grandfather, teacher, and inspector. He believes that we have an obligation to adapt to the world and society as it evolves and to help new generations prepare for a new world that doesn't yet exist. During the program, Mr. Bianchi is interested in exploring perspectives on how to manage a large influx of students, and integrating students with special needs, including linguistic considerations.



Marco Brighenti

Marco Brighenti has been a departmental administrator in the Academic Center for Education for New Arrivals and Travelers' Children (CASNAV), based in Essonne, for the past six years. CASNAV is an expertise agency in charge of educating newly arrived students at the regional level in France. It is tasked with informing, training, creating, and disseminating educational tools on behalf of teachers, school principals, inspectors, as well as parents, associations, and social workers. Mr. Brighenti has a Master's degree in history and geography. He taught French for two years in Laos and taught history, geography, and citizenship education for 15 years in a suburb of Paris. Mr. Brighenti's mother is German and his father is Italian. He wants to participate in the European School Administrator Program because he seeks more efficient processes and new pedagogical practices. He believes that we are more intelligent and more efficient when we work with others than when we are alone.

France



Magali Gallais

Magali Gallais is a chief educational advisor at College Albert Camus in France. As the head of a team of 15, she works with teenagers from the ages of 11 to 16, as well as their families, local political leaders, and other French government institutions. Ms. Gallais has two daughters who are 5 and 11 years old. She enjoys watching movies, listening to music, dancing, and reading. During the European School Administrator Program, she hopes to explore strategies for how to better serve the needs of refugee and immigrant youth, and to exchange ideas on legal resources available to them.



Anne Grange

Anne Grange currently serves as assistant principal in a high school located in the suburbs of Le Mans. She previously worked as an academic coordinator for the Integration Mission of the Pays de La Loire Region. As a graduate in education sciences (Master), she has studied and worked on the issue of student school drop-outs and has been an academic trainer in this field for teachers and principals for the last 15 years. During the European School Administrator Program, Ms. Grange wishes to broaden her knowledge by exchanging ideas with other partners involved in finding educational and social answers for underserved and at-risk youth. Having an American father and a Dutch brother, she has always been open to multicultural exchanges. Her main hobbies are artistically-oriented, including painting and singing. Her interests also include learning more about personal development and communication techniques.

France



Cyril Norbec

Cyril Norbec has worked for the Secretary of State for Education and Science for 16 years. He began his career as a teacher and as a director for students with special needs. Currently, he works as a principal in a junior high school, and also teaches two classes for disabled pupils and for young migrants. Mr. Norbec has always worked in tough areas or disadvantaged neighborhoods. He likes to play sports (basketball, swimming), travel, and enjoys reading autobiographies and historical novels. He hopes that the European School Administrator Program will improve the work he does with migrant students.

Germany



Helmut Kehlenbeck

Helmut Kehlenbeck works as an Advisor for Intercultural Affairs for the Minister of Children and Education in Bremen, Germany. He is also a reporter for intercultural affairs on behalf of the Secretary of the Standing Conference of Ministers for Education and Cultural Affairs. Mr. Kehlenbeck has worked as a teacher for children with special needs, and as a school principal. He is married to a book illustrator, and they have two adult daughters. He likes watching movies, reading books, and cycling. During the European School Administrator Program, Mr. Kehlenbeck would like to learn and share effective strategies to improve the process of integrating newly arrived students and immigrant youth.

Germany



Christiane Niedermeier

Christiane Niedermeier is a principal in Grund-und Mittelschule Straubing-Ittling, where her students range in age from 6 to 18. The school has 400 students and 40 teachers and is situated in the city of Straubing in the center of Lower Bavaria. Straubing hosts a large number of refugees. Ms. Niedermeier studied to be a high school teacher and has been working in schools since. In 2010 she became principal at her current school. Her background is also in working with the school exit exam (Abitur). Her hobbies include traveling, reading literature, her job, and gardening. She has a 27-year old son, who is a technician. Through the European School Administrator Program, Ms. Niedermeier would like to gain additional knowledge about how to effectively integrate refugees.



Martin Oppermann

Martin Oppermann is a consultant at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education in the Federal State of North Rhine-Westphalia. He is responsible for integration programs in regards to the prevention of violence and extremism. Mr. Oppermann is a former teacher of German law at a vocational college, Through his career in education, he has been responsible for anti-aggression trainings at schools, and also trained teachers. He studied law at Ruhr University in Bochum and is married with two daughters, ages 14 and 18. He is especially interested in exchanging ideas on creating intercultural competency within schools and communities.

The Netherlands



Sophia (Josephine) Brefeld

Sophia Brefeld is currently an administrator at Marnix College. She was born the eldest of six children. Her father was a school administrator and she was raised to strongly believe in the power of schooling and education. Dr. Brefeld has taught in both secondary schools and universities. By the time she finished her PhD, she wanted to return to secondary education. Dr. Brefeld has been married for 30 years and has four adult daughters. Through the European School Administrator Program, one of the topics she would like to learn about is how her community can better welcome and engage unaccompanied minors.



Regina Buijze

Regina Buijze is a department leader at Lyceum Schoendeln in Roermond. She studied modern Dutch literature at the Radboud University in Nijmegen from 2003 to 2005. From 1993 to 2004 she owned her own communications business. After graduating from Dutch high school she lived in Nebraska for 11 months as an exchange student. When she is not working, she spends her time with her family (partner, three children, and exchange student) and enjoys reading, horseback riding, singing, creating sculptures and learning Spanish. Ms. Buijze helps Syrian refugees in her community practice Dutch. She is also a member of the local choir and local sculpture group. By participating in the European School Administrator Program, Ms. Buijze hopes to gain a deeper understanding of how Dutch schools can help young immigrant and refugee youth to feel at home, and to develop skills that will help them create better futures for themselves.

The Netherlands



Anna Paulina Smits

Anna Paulina Smits is the principal of Dalton High School in Alkmaar in the Netherlands. Her school has been educating refugee students since 1950. Their aim is to prepare these students for the regular curriculum and to facilitate and connect them with native Dutch students. Ms. Smits enjoys reading and cycling. She has two children, aged 15 and 22. During the European School Administrator Program, Ms. Smits hopes to exchange perspectives on topics including language education and teacher training.



Yolanda Ulenaers

Yolanda Ulenaers is the Chairman of the executive board of eight secondary schools in Nijmegen. Recently, the area established the largest Dutch school for refugee children. Ms. Ulenaers has identified one of the biggest social issues in Dutch society as the 'growing gap' and the influx of large numbers of refugees. In order to address these concerns, she believes that society needs to put more effort into providing accessible and high quality education for all students, regardless of their background. Ms. Ulenaers herself has an international background; being born in Belgium and then having lived in Taiwan and Germany. Her husband is a high school teacher and she is the proud mother of two sons, ages 18 and 20.

The Netherlands



Ronald Verschuren

Ronald Verschuren has been the principal of College Cobbenhagen, a high school in Tilburg, for five years. While in school, he studied physical education. During his time as a PE teacher he went to university to get his Master's degree in management and education, which helped him to become a principal. Mr. Verschuren represents a very multi-cultural school, which has two locations. One of the locations is comprised 85% of immigrant students, most of them coming from Morocco, Turkey, or Somalia. Mr. Verschuren is curious about the problems other countries are facing, and whether there is an overall solution to be found in dealing with an increasingly multi-cultural population. He and his wife Ceciel have two kids. Mart is 18 years old and Imme is 16 years old. Mr. Verschuren's hobbies include coaching field hockey, cycle racing, and theater.

Sweden



Peter Jedar

Peter Jedar works as a Headmaster at Wasaschool in Sodutale. Wasaschool is a school with pupils from around the world. Only four of the 630 students have two parents that were born in Sweden. Through the European School Administrator Program, Mr. Jedar would like to learn how Sweden can better integrate students from different countries into their new country. He looks forward to hearing about how other schools have integrated their newcomers. Mr. Jedar lives in Strangnas with his wife and their three daughters. His hobbies include playing ice hockey with his friends.

Sweden



Set Rooke

Set Rooke is the Deputy Principal at Varnhems Upper Secondary School in the city of Malmo. He works with newly arrived youths aged 16-20 years old. Mr. Rooke has worked as a school leader for 12 years. He has a Master's degree in teaching as well as a Master's of Science in mathematics and physics. During the European School Administrator Program, he would like to examine parental engagement programs, and also learn perspectives on after-school activities and programs that focus on high performing youth.



Magnus Silfverstolpe

Magnus Silfverstolpe has bridged a career as both a teacher and administrator. He initially worked as a teacher for 15 years and for the past 15 years, as a school leader. He is currently the Principal at an upper secondary school in Stockholm, a school with many newly arrived students. Mr. Silfverstolpe feels that in Sweden there needs to be a better approach for facing the challenges that arise from a large influx of newcomers. He hopes that participating in the European School Administrator Program will provide ideas and inspiration for developing new processes in the Stockholm education system. Mr. Silfverstolpe's wife is from Chile. He has three children and, at the moment, four grandchildren.

United Kingdom



John Breslin

John Breslin is the head of sixth form at a Church of England girls school, St. Saviour's & St. Olave's Girl's School in Central London. The school is diverse, with over fifty languages spoken among its students. While many of the students are poor or underprivileged, they are united in the ambition to succeed. Mr. Breslin works extensively with groups in the Arts that support refugees and other minorities. Through the European School Administrator Program, he is interested in building a community of shared values.



Graeme Munro Brown

Graeme Brown is a Deputy Rector and also the head of the social subjects faculty of Dunfermline High School, a large Scottish comprehensive secondary school with 1,800 pupils. His degree is in politics and modern history. Mr. Brown's hobbies include art, current affairs, and going to the cinema. His objective for participating in the European School Administrator Program is to learn how specific groups can be tracked and targeted to improve their attainment in school and life chances.

United Kingdom



Joanna Mary Pomeroy

Joanna Pomeroy became the head of Woodford County High School (a girls' grammar school in East London) in September, 2010. In her thirty-year career to date she has taught English in five schools in three national systems, encompassing the independent and state sectors, and serving single sex, co-ed, selective and comprehensive intakes. Ms. Pomeroy's family originates from the West Country but she traveled to Scotland for higher education. Her interests include theater, travel, creative writing and hill walking. Through the European School Administrator Program, Ms. Pomeroy hopes to examine strategies for parent engagement, career advice and guidance, and student welfare support.



Peter Stumpf

Peter Stumpf is an established school leader with experience in both primary and secondary education in London. He is currently head of school at both an elementary and a high school serving highly deprived areas with large numbers of overseas students, many of whom speak little English. In this role, Mr. Stumpf focuses on transforming the community through high quality education. He is interested in theater, travel, music, and also enjoys running. During the European School Administrator Program, Mr. Stumpf hopes to learn new successful strategies to help minority children.