Square pegs in round holes – or

From practice to theory in FL teacher education: Mismatched needs and content and pedagogical knowledge



Group members

- OÅsa Morberg, Sweden
- OGlenn Ole Hellekjær, Norway
- OSkaidrite Bukbarde, Latvia
- OIoana Maria Diana Sandru, Romania
- Elisabeth Jantscher, Austria



Focus

The lack of any systematic connection between FL teachers' actual needs and the content knowledge and pedagogical content knowledge their education provides them with.



Mismatched areas

- Poor language proficiency, in general, as well as in classroom management language
- Little or no knowledge of text grammar
- Language for Specific Purposes needed
- Knowing the wrong kind of literature
- Classroom management skills and the ability to handle new contexts: multilingual, special needs



Goal

Improve the quality of FL teacher education



Action to be taken

- Needs analyses at the national and European level
 - What language teachers need
 - What pupils need
 - What society needs
 - Future needs
- Discussing the results with teacher education institutions



Desired outcomes

- Developing a CEFR for foreign language teachers
- New programs/modules for foreign language teachers - content and pedagogical content knowledge
- Improved practice programs for teacher trainees