



MenSI

Mentoring for
School Improvement

D1.2

Charter for Advisory Members

V. 10 February 2021



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¹ Nature: R = Report, P = Prototype, D = Demonstrator, O = Other

² Dissemination level:

PU = Public

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Table of Contents

1	Introduction to MenSI	3
1.1	School-to-school mentoring.....	3
1.2	About MenSI	3
1.3	Expected results.....	4
1.4	Partner organisations.....	5
1.5	Project timeline.....	5
2	Role of MenSI Advisory Members	6
2.1	Who can be an Advisory Member?.....	6
2.2	Benefits for Advisory Members	6
2.3	Responsibilities for Advisory Members.....	7
3	How to become an Advisory Member.....	8
4	Application form	9



1 Introduction to MenSI

1.1 School-to-school mentoring

Transferring and scaling innovation related to digital technologies in school education is an ongoing policy challenge across Europe. At individual teacher level, peer-to-peer networking and mentoring – an experienced teacher guiding and supporting a less experienced one – are effective mechanisms for career-long professional learning. However, at whole-school level, such approaches are less widespread despite the evidence for their potential.

School-to-school mentoring entails holistic, active collaboration between two or more establishments for specific purposes, such as professional development, to overcome isolation or overall organisational improvement. Such mentoring often takes place through school networks but there can be large differences in outcomes, depending on factors such as whether participation is voluntary or compulsory, instigated externally or internally, or recognised and supported by education authorities. It is therefore important to understand better how ‘top-down’ and ‘bottom-up’ approaches work and to explore different incentives and rewards that can motivate schools to be become engaged in whole-school peer learning.

1.2 About MenSI

The Mentoring for School Improvement (MenSI) project is a 28-month Coordination and Support Action (November 2020 – February 2023) funded by the European Commission H2020 programme. The project will carry out a pan-European investigation into how different approaches to mentoring can support the mainstreaming of innovative digital teaching practices in primary and secondary schools. It builds on the outcomes and lessons learnt from the earlier EU-FP7 [Living Schools Lab](#) project (2012-2014), which provided support to school clusters via ‘regional hubs’, and will also leverage the network of learning labs that are part of the current European Schoolnet [Future Classroom Lab](#) initiative.

Involving ministries of education in six countries (Belgium-Flanders, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Portugal), MenSI will create a network of 24 Mentor Schools working with some one hundred Mentee Schools. By the end of the project, the network will open up to other schools interested in applying school mentoring approaches to develop innovative pedagogical practice involving digital technologies in teaching and learning.



The **key objectives** of MenSI are:

1. To investigate school-to-school mentoring theory and practice including the strengths, weaknesses and related costs of different mentoring and school peer-to-peer learning models.
2. To create and animate a network of over 100 Mentor and Mentee Schools to pilot a range of approaches to addressing policy challenges.
3. To analyse the effectiveness of whole-school mentoring approaches applied by network schools to support mainstreaming of ICT and address policy challenges in partner countries.
4. To offer evidence-based recommendations and guidelines for the cost-effective coordination of school clusters through different approaches (top-down, bottom-up, virtual, etc.).
5. To create a community of practice and professional development opportunities for a wider group of school staff and an exchange mechanism for policy makers.

1.3 Expected results

1. An overview of school-to-school mentoring in Europe – Based on desk research, interviews and surveys, a report on different types of mentoring between schools in Europe, including examples and case studies, with reference to models of digitally supported innovation.
2. 24 school clusters in six countries – The participating mentor and mentee schools will work collaboratively on developing digital competence and identified policy challenges (e.g. disadvantaged students), benefiting from customised professional development activities.
3. Experimenting with different whole-school mentoring approaches – Information on regional hub mentoring approaches, including the role of online mentoring and different incentive/reward schemes, and how school clusters have implemented different types of bottom-up, self-organised approaches to cluster management.
4. Documentation and analysis of mentoring practice – A summary on the different types of mentoring clusters with focus on innovative, effective and scalable strategies, practices, processes and digital tools used, and a report on effective whole-school mentoring, as evidenced in the project.
5. MOOC³ and community of practice for practitioners – A MOOC on school mentoring open to teachers and school leaders across Europe and an open community of practice to share, exchange and improve.

³ Massive Open Online Course



1.4 Partner organisations

- European Schoolnet – EUN, Belgium
- INDIRE – National Institute for Documentation, Innovation and Educational Research, Italy
- The Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Croatia
- Czech National Agency for International Education and Research – DZS
- Educational Authority, Hungary
- The Directorate-General for Education – DGE, Portugal
- GO!, Belgium
- Brunel University London, UK

1.5 Project timeline

- Launch November 2020
- Launch of the Charter for Advisory Board members, February 2021
- Findings of the WP2 (overview of school-to-school mentoring in Europe): May 2021
- Selection of participant schools: March-June 2021
- Launch of the school pilots: September 2021
- Mentoring Policy Exchange mechanism, 1st meeting: November 2021 (TBC)
- Ending the school pilots: May-June 2022
- Mentoring Policy Exchange mechanism, 2nd meeting: November 2022 (TBC)
- Project closing: February 2023



2 Role of MenSI Advisory Members

A key element of MenSI will be to provide ministries with opportunities to collect, document and compare cases of both successful and unsuccessful whole school peer-learning mentoring approaches.

Following models successfully applied in other projects, the project consortium will extend its reach by inviting additional ministries of education and other relevant stakeholders to participate in MenSI as unfunded Advisory Members. Unfunded means they are unable to receive project funding under the terms of the contract with the European Commission. A number of EUN members and other organisations already expressed during the proposal stage an interest in having an active participation.

2.1 Who can be an Advisory Member?

The MenSI Advisory Members can be (the list is not exclusive):

- Ministries of Education
- Regional and municipal education authorities
- Organisations working in the area of school-to-school mentoring, e.g. research
- (EU-funded) projects of relevant topic
- Private organisations

The Advisory Member status will be given to an organisation, not individuals. In addition, individual schools can't obtain the status of an Advisory Member.

2.2 Benefits for Advisory Members

The MenSI Advisory Members benefit from:

- Opportunities to contribute to the collection of best practices on school-to-school mentoring and whole-school peer-learning.
- Opportunities for networking between key professional groups in 6 countries.
- Being invited to participate in the new 'Mentoring Policy Exchange' mechanism including two on-site events during the EUN's Eminent conferences (in 2021 and 2022) and online activities, such as webinars.



- Being part of setting an agenda for future work on school-to-school mentoring activities that will be taken forward after the end of the project (i.e. the MenSI sustainability plans).
- Being part of the MenSI projects decision-making mechanism, as Advisory Members are invited to take part in dedicated session as part of the project's General Assembly meetings, giving them the chance to shape the strategic development of the project in line with their respective expertise.
- Having an early access to project results and deliverables, including information on how 'top-down' and 'bottom-up' approaches work or how different incentives and rewards that can motivate schools to be become engaged in whole-school peer-learning.
- Opportunities to participate/contribute to local workshops or training activities for the participant schools, e.g. around a particular policy priority topic.
- Professional development opportunities for their schools (in case of MoE and regional/local authorities) that join the activities for the wider network of MenSI schools.
- Using the MenSI visual identity in the capacity of an Advisory Board member.
- Being listed on the MenSI website as Advisory Member.

2.3 Responsibilities for Advisory Members

The MenSI Advisory Members are expected to, depending on their profile and possibilities:

- To take part in the sessions linked with the MenSI General Assembly meetings and support the strategical development of the project.
- To propose relevant resources and best practices on school-to-school mentoring to be used in the deliverables and/or on the MenSI platform.
- To take part in the events linked with the 'Mentoring Policy Exchange' mechanism, e.g. sessions during the Eminent conference (self-funded attendance).
- To contribute to local level trainings and events for schools in the project countries.
- To promote MenSI and give it visibility in relevant occasions and to relevant audiences, e.g. by using printed infosheets, posting news in their website/newsletter/social media, or making presentations.

The Advisory Member status will be valid until the end of the project, February 2023.



3 How to become an Advisory Member

1. Explore the MenSI website for further information: <http://fcl.eun.org/mensi>. You can also contact one of the partners in your country.
2. Fill in the online form at: <http://bit.ly/mensi-adv-mem>
3. The MenSI team will acknowledge the reception of the application and request further information if needed.
4. The application will be submitted to the MenSI General Assembly (formed by the project partners) where the application will be reviewed. Consequently, the General Assembly will approve or reject the application. Alternatively, the application may be put on hold, and returned to the candidate organization for complementary information.
5. The candidate will be informed about the decision of the General Assembly.
6. The new Advisory Members will be listed on the MenSI website.

For further information

To contact the Project Coordinator, EUN: mensi@eun.org



4 Application form

The application form is provided here as an example. The application must be done online through the form: <http://bit.ly/mensi-adv-mem>

Questions

- Organisation name
- Country
- Website
- Contact person: name
- Contact person: email
- Organisation type:
 - Ministry of Education
 - Local or regional education authority
 - Research organization / university / teacher training institute
 - National/local NGO or foundation
 - Pan-European network organization in the field of school education
 - Private organization/company
 - Other
- Which of the activities your organization could support / be part of? (multiply selection)
 - Take part in the sessions linked with the MenSI General Assembly meetings and support the strategical development of the project.
 - To propose relevant resources and best practices on school-to-school mentoring to be used in the deliverables and/or on the MenSI platform.
 - To take part in the events linked with the 'Mentoring Policy Exchange' mechanism, e.g. sessions during the Eminent conference (self-funded attendance).
 - To contribute to local level trainings and events for schools in the project countries.
 - To promote MenSI and give it visibility in relevant occasions and to relevant audiences using our communication channels.
- How is your organisation linked to or already working on the topic of school-to-school mentoring? (open question)
 - How did you find out the MenSI project and Advisory Membership?
 - Through European Schoolnet
 - Through any other MenSI consortium partner
 - Through an organization that is an Advisory Member itself



- Through one of the participant schools
 - Through internet search
 - Other, please specify:
- If you discussed about MenSI with or got invited by any organisation, please mention the organisation here:

To fill in the application form online, please go to: <http://bit.ly/mensi-adv-mem>

Coordinator



Partners



EDUCAÇÃO



#MenSI-schools



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