## **EXPLORING YOUR VIEWS ON DIFFERENTIATION AND EDUCATIONAL EQUALITY**

The purpose of this tool is to reflect on your own views regarding differentiation and engage in a discussion with your colleagues about it.

Each person fills in the questions about their views on differentiation individually. To what extent do you agree with the statements below? (-- means completely disagree, +/- in between, ++ completely agree). There are no wrong answers. The statements are meant to facilitate a conversation about differentiation and equal opportunities.

## After filling out:

- ✓ Discuss similarities and differences in answers with each other.
- ✓ How do your views influence the choices you make for differentiation in the classroom?
- ✓ Which views on differentiation are not consistent with your actions in the classroom?

  Why is that the case?

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To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

|    |   | <br>- | +/- | + | ++ |
|----|---|-------|-----|---|----|
| 1. | I believe that (virtually) all pupils in the class should   |       |     |   |    |
|    | achieve the same learning objectives, and the               |       |     |   |    |
|    | differences in learning outcomes between pupils             |       |     |   |    |
|    | should not deviate significantly.                           |       |     |   |    |
| 2. | I believe that all pupils must receive the same amount      |       |     |   |    |
|    | of support and guidance regardless of their home            |       |     |   |    |
|    | backgrounds.  |       |     |   |    |
| 3. | I believe that pupils who master the subject matter         |       |     |   |    |
|    | must always receive new subject matter even if they         |       |     |   |    |
|    | are far ahead of other pupils.                              |       |     |   |    |
| 4. | I believe it is important for low achieving pupils to learn |       |     |   |    |
|    | from their higher achieving peers.                          |       |     |   |    |
| 5. | I believe that grouping pupils by similar ability levels is |       |     |   |    |
|    | stimulating for their self-esteem.                          |       |     |   |    |
| 6. | I believe that (almost) all pupils must reach the same      |       |     |   |    |
|    | learning goals, and differences between pupils in           |       |     |   |    |
|    | educational outcomes must not go too far apart.             |       |     |   |    |
| 7. | I believe that pupils who have already mastered the         |       |     |   |    |
|    | subject matter should not continue with new subject         |       |     |   |    |
|    | matter but should do other activities such as reading a     |       |     |   |    |
|    | book or helping other pupils.                               |       |     |   |    |
| 8. | I believe that pupils who receive less support from         |       |     |   |    |
|    | home must receive more support and guidance at              |       |     |   |    |
|    | school than the other pupils.                               |       |     |   |    |
| 9. | I believe that it is stigmatizing for pupils to be divided  |       |     |   |    |
|    | into homogeneous ability groups (pupils with similar        |       |     |   |    |
|    | performance levels and abilities).                          |       |     |   |    |
| 10 | I believe that most pupils learn more effectively in        |       |     |   |    |
|    | homogeneous groups (pupils with comparable                  |       |     |   |    |
|    | achievements and abilities) than in groups of pupils        |       |     |   |    |
|    | who differ in achievements and abilities.                   |       |     |   |    |

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