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Invite: UCT hosts workshop on strengthening teaching for children with hearing, visual and intellectual disabilities

01 December 2017 | 09h00-15h00 | Radisson Blu Hotel, Sea Point, Cape Town

The Division of Disability Studies in the University of Cape Town's Department of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences will host a research validation workshop for the Teacher Empowerment for Disability Inclusion (TEDI) initiative.

The TEDI initiative, funded by the European Union, aims to develop relevant teacher education programmes that address the specialised educational needs of children with severe to profound sensory or intellectual impairments.

The workshop will focus on the different perspectives of teachers' education for children with severe impairments by bringing together researchers from different disciplines.

Prior to this workshop, UCT – in partnership with Christoffel-Blindenmission (CBM) Deutschland e.V. – conducted a research study to develop an understanding of the needs of the learners as well as the education needed to empower teachers to be able to meet these needs. This workshop will present the preliminary findings of the study.

Dr Judith McKenzie, Head of Division of Disability Studies, states: "Despite policy commitment, there has been slow progress towards achieving quality education for children with severe disabilities. One of the main obstacles is that there are hardly any academic teacher training programmes preparing teachers to teach learners through specialisation courses on disability and education.

"In order to address this, the European commission has entered into a partnership with the Department of Higher Education and Training, universities and civil society to develop relevant teacher education programmes. The current study begins with the premise that in order to strengthen the quality of teacher education so that teachers are able to provide quality education and support for learners with severe visual, hearing and intellectual disabilities, it is important for a sound empirical background of teacher education to be developed."

Notes to editors:

Participatory validation of findings from the situation analysis on teachers' and learners' needs forms part of an initiative by the University of Cape Town in partnership with Christoffel-Blindenmission (CBM) Deutschland e.V. as the lead applicant for the Lot 3 of the European Commission, Teaching and Learning and Inclusive Education EuropAid/150345/DD/ACT/ZA: "Supporting emerging university-based centres focused on developing teachers that can address the specialised educational needs of children with profound visual, hearing and intellectual disabilities".

The summary report of the situation analysis will be accessible on the CBM [website](#).

Media representatives/journalists interested in attending the briefing are requested to RSVP to: tedi@uct.ac.za.

ENDS

Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department

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