

Catalyst Expert Advice Session

What is a Catalyst Expert Advice Session?

A Catalyst Expert Advice Sessions are a space where Inclusion International members can get support from experts to help them improve access to inclusive education in their country.

During each session, one or more members of Inclusion International in a focus country will present on the big challenges for inclusive education in their country. They will talk about the current situation, where they are on the path to full inclusion in schools, and the issues that the country is struggling with. Presenters will come with specific technical questions and issues they need support with, and experts on inclusive education from the Catalyst Team and other Inclusion International who have been through the process of shifting schools towards inclusion will be on the call to give advice and brainstorm solutions together.

Audience:

Each session, one member or a few members from one country will present to the group about the challenges they are facing. Catalyst Members and Members of Inclusion International are able to join these sessions to hear about the challenges, give advice, and share ideas. External organisations or individuals outside of the Inclusion International network cannot attend these sessions - they are closed only to our network. **This ensures that members have a safe space for sharing honest experience related to challenges in pursuing inclusion in education in their countries and find together possible solutions or new strategies.**

Who should be a presenter?

Presenting a case study is a good fit for Inclusion International members who:

- Are working in countries where not all children with intellectual disabilities are being included in mainstream schools
- Have identified specific challenges or barriers that exist in your country that are preventing full inclusion
- Want to transform the education system in their country to be more inclusive
- Need technical support or specific expertise on how best to make inclusive education happen

- Have done some advocacy on inclusive education or have a plan to begin advocacy for inclusive education, but could use support with identifying next steps or good strategies

If you see barriers to inclusive education in your country and want help from experts and experienced advocates to try and find and advocate for solutions, you could be our next presenter!

These sessions are meant for presenters who are looking for expert support and technical advice on transforming education systems. If you think inclusive education is working perfectly in your country or if you don't need advice and support from experts, being a presenter in this session is not for you!

What does being a presenter look like?

The preparation, the actual event and the follow-up to the event have these key steps (although they might sometimes change):

- **Preparation for the event:** The presentation is prepared by the representatives of the national organization with the support and feedback of the Catalyst Co-chairs and/or another small group of Catalyst members (on ad-hoc request). This preparation happens following these steps:

- The organization will receive an [inclusive education scoping exercise form](#) and a [PowerPoint presentation template](#). The organization will work to fill out the form and the template and will send them over to the Catalyst co-chairs in preparation for the preparatory call. There is a specific format that the presenters follow to make sure that the questions and technical support the organizations need is prepared ahead of time - this helps make sure the Catalyst Experts can come ready with feedback and answers!
- The preparatory call will involve the national organization, the Catalyst Co-Chairs and those Catalyst experts that have been identified within the team because they have expertise that is relevant to address the organization's challenges as expressed in the form and PowerPoint template. The aim of the call will be to get ready for the actual event and add information where needed in the form and template.
- **The actual event:**
 - **1 - Presentation:** The Catalyst member (representative of the National Organization and Member of II and Catalyst) presents on the situational analysis, on their national advocacy actions to promote inclusive education, on the challenges the organization is facing in their work, and prepares clear asks for technical support

or advice the Catalyst so that other members can help them address those challenges.

- **2 – Catalyst Feedback session:** After the presentation moderated by the Catalyst Co-Chairs, the presenter will leave a slide on the screen which summarizes the key challenges and questions for the Catalyst Team. Since a group of experts has received the Scoping Exercise Form and presentation in advance, they will also make additional comments and questions on their country presentation. The Catalyst members will also respond and share their feedback and their responses to the questions.
- **3 - Constructive open discussion:** After the feedback session, the Catalyst Co-chairs moderate a constructive open discussion with the rest of the Catalyst group – both Catalyst Regional Teams and Expert Advisors.
- **Follow-up:**
 - After the event, there might be follow-up **discussions** that can happen via Zoom or via our Google Group:
catalyst-full-team@inclusion-international.org .
 - The **recording** of the event with the supporting materials and resources shared will be uploaded to the Inclusion International's

E-Learning platform that will be launched in September 2023 in the section dedicated to inclusive education.

Next events

The next Catalyst Country Case Study Exercise events will be held on:

- Inclusive education in the Sharjah Emirate - 29 February at 8.30 am EDT.

If you would like the Catalyst to help you organize a Case Study Exercise focusing on your country, please reach out to Fede at federicasettimi@inclusion-international.org.

Language

Please note that the event on Sharjah will be held in English. If your organization is willing to volunteer and provide an interpretation service for this event, please reach out to Fede at federicasettimi@inclusion-international.org.

Past events

In 2023, Catalyst held Country Case Study Sessions on Zanzibar and Afghanistan. If you would like to access the recording and materials, please reach out to Fede at federicasettimi@inclusion-international.org.