Roundtable: Supporting collaborative problem-solving in education: challenges and enabling conditions

Panelists: Aleksandar Baucal (University of Belgrade, Serbia), Anne-Nelly Perret-Clermont (University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland), Nathalie Muller Mirza (University of Geneva, Switzerland), Valérie Tartas (University of Toulouse, France), Charis Psaltis (University of Cyprus, Cyprus), Ivana Stepanović Ilić (University of Belgrade, Serbia) & Boris Jokić (Institute for Social Research, Croatia)

Chairs: Aleksandar Baucal & Ivana Stepanović Ilić, University of Belgrade

The development of competencies required for collaborative problem-solving (CPS) and teamwork is a prerequisite for both individual and societal progress in the contemporary world. This is a reason why collaborative problem solving is getting a prominent place in education in many European countries. However, education practice has suggested that the naïve use of group work in education is related to a lot of disappointments and unintended consequences. Engaging and productive collaborative group work in the classroom requires ensuring some enabling conditions and teacher scaffolding both before and during the peer collaboration. The round table aims to identify conditions and characteristics of teachers' support for students that can foster engaging in productive, collaborative problem-solving. During the roundtable, participants will be invited to reflect following issues: (a) own experience with different modalities of collaborative problem-solving in education; (b) the critical role of teachers in providing scaffolding to students before and during the collaborative problem solving, and (c) selection of topics that could provide good opportunities for productive collaborative problem-solving. Discussion in the round table will help us identify relevant elements or dimensions of the model for students' support and training that aims to develop and/or improve students' capacities for collaborative problem-solving. Also, this round table will shed light on factors relevant for the development of successful training to support students' capacities for dialogue and collaborative problem-solving within peer interaction.