



IRN Update:

Reading literacy and associated interventions for High-Risk Children from Disadvantaged Communities.

Over the last 18 months, the IRN has focused much of its work on the *Success for All* as one of the largest projects worldwide aimed at addressing learning deficits for at-risk children from disadvantaged communities. *Success for All* was developed over 30 years by prof. Robert Slavin and has reached over 2 million children from disadvantaged communities in the United States and puts into practice the findings of research on effective school instruction, curriculum, school and classroom organisation, assessment, accommodation for struggling learners, parent involvement and professional development. Overall, *Success for All* is based on multidimensional intervention theory, meaning that vulnerable learners who are at risk to fail in school require intervention on many fronts. In South Africa, the project was piloted as a reading intervention for at-risk children to gauge its potential benefits for a developing context where reading interventions are needed for children from disadvantaged backgrounds. At the same time, the project is being implemented in the Netherlands in six disadvantaged schools and plans are for Germany to also pilot the project in 2018 as an intervention for at-risk children. In June 2017, a combined *Success for All* meeting between researchers from the Netherlands, Germany and South Africa was held with visits to Dutch schools to gain first-hand experience of the project's implementation and its challenges in the Netherlands. The *Success for All* Foundation in the UK has been instrumental in providing training to teachers in the pilot schools in South Africa.

An IRN meeting was held in Washington DC in April 2016 and at this meeting members suggested a website as useful resource for the activities of the IRN. Since then, a website, where the project can be documented, has been developed, but technical difficulties with an efficient file management system means that the website will only be functional in early 2018.

Future plans for the IRN includes possibilities of consolidating publications from partner countries that have implemented Success for All. In August 2018, a school effectiveness conference will be hosted by the Groningen Institute for Education Research with prof Slavin as keynote speaker. This event may be used as springboard for further directions the IRN may take. So, for example, is it envisioned that other reading literacy interventions are included in the IRN's current work, not only that of *Success for All*.