

Talent Center in action: TALENT platform on cognitive talent is online!
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More than 200 participants went to Leuven on Thursday 25 April 2019 for the "Caring for talent" conference. The varied program, including a lecture by Prof. Nicholas Colangelo (University of Iowa, USA) about underachieving gifted students, clearly appealed to many! Also first findings were presented from the large-scale longitudinal TALENT-study by Prof. Karine Verschueren and Dr. Jeroen Lavrijsen (KU Leuven).



An important moment was the launch of the brand new online TALENT platform: www.projecttalent.be. The platform aims to develop into a dynamic online collaborative knowledge platform concerning cognitive talent development. A thematically arranged knowledge base, an overview of professionals, schools and organizations that work on giftedness and talent development, and a co-creation and network

module are the three core components of the current TALENT platform. A fourth part will be added shortly, namely an online place where we try to bring together learning resources for high-ability students.

The knowledge base includes testimonials from gifted children and adolescents who talk about their experiences in the classroom and beyond. Also, findings from scientific research on cognitive talent in Flanders and international review studies and meta-analyses are disseminated. A number of tools are also made available free of charge for teachers and schools to use in the classroom. The aim is to continue to expand the database with articles about recent research in gifted education and to share evidence-based micro-interventions online.

To facilitate the connection and alignment between all stakeholders (i.e., students, parents, teachers, school counselors, school administrators, teacher training, educational networks, and student guidance centers), an interactive map of organizations involved in gifted education has been placed on the site, where educators and counselors can see what programs or other experts operate in their neighborhood. Professionals can search on function, type of organization, region, and expertise.

The co creation and network module supports the creation of an active, learning community of practitioners. It aims at connecting all practitioners working with highly able learners and facilitating collaboration and the exchange of information, lesson materials, experience, and expertise. This module facilitates to create online working groups based on region, expertise, or topic. An agenda where users can add events and trainings related to cognitively able students, can be shared.

The platform www.projecttalent.be is in Dutch, but can easily be translated using Google Translate.