**Vignette: Muted**

The facilitator of the breakaway session is waiting in the online session. ‘Federico Rossi’, it says on the screen. He wears a light blue shirt and a dark blue jersey. The background on the screen behind him is blurred. Bright light shining on the ceiling. He checks his notes and welcomes the participants as they start to join the session. When it seems that everybody has joined, he explains the order of the proceedings and asks for a round of introductions. Only two participants switch on their cameras while they introduce themselves. Alessandro wears black-rimmed glasses and a black-and-maroon sportsjacket. He gazes downwards at the camera. Big orange wall behind him. Chiara also clicks open her screen. She sits in close proximity to the computer. She wears a fluffy, cream jacket and looks to the left while she speaks. The wall behind her is a soft white. Folded washing in the background. Federico listens attentively. Hand on his chin. When everyone has introduced themselves he says collegially to Alessandro and Chiara, “You are Italian, like me”. It lightens the atmosphere in the online room. Now he shares some of his own professional work. Teaching wellbeing, working with teachers, quality education. SDG 3 and SDG 4. He speaks about bottom-up approaches, civic engagement, Fridays for Future. Suddenly the screen freezes mid-sentence. The connection disappears. The “Connecting” screen pops up automatically. A tiny circle going around and around on the screen.  “Recording in progress”, says an automated voice. The screen opens back up again. Now Alessandro is talking.  He is saying, in a serious tone, that in Italy there is a lot of teacher autonomy, but weak school autonomy. Federico nods his head as he listens. It goes quiet.  “You are on mute, Alessandro, I am not sure if you were still talking”, he says inquisitively. “I was finished”, says Alessandro in a monotone.

**Place**: Online webinar

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