Inclusive Education: An International Perspective on Policies and Practices

Lisbon, September 2009
Dr. Cor Meijer, director
www.european-agency.org
Member countries of the Agency

- Presently, the Agency has 27 full member countries: Austria, Belgium (French), Belgium (Flemish), Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom (England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales).

- We expect that Romania, Slovak Republic and Bulgaria will soon join us.
The Agency

• 13th year of operations
• Main secretariat in Odense, Denmark and European Liaison office in Brussels, Belgium
Funding

The Agency is financed by:

• The member countries’ Ministries of Education
• European Commission as one of the 6 organisations supported by the Lifelong Learning Programme
The Agency’s Mission

• Member countries’ platform for collaboration in the field of special needs education (SNE)
• Our ultimate aim is to improve educational policy and practice for learners with special educational needs
International Policy Context for SNE

• UN Convention on Rights of People with Disabilities (2006)
Selection of Agency Priority Themes

• Early Childhood Intervention
• Provision of special needs education
• Financing and inclusion
• Transition from school to working life
• Classroom Practice to support Inclusive Education
• Assessment of learners with Special Educational Needs
• Students with SEN and an Immigrant background
Inclusive Education and Effective Classroom Practices
Agency Work 2009 - 2013

• New Priority themes
  - Teacher Education for Inclusion
  - Organisation of Provision for SNE
  - Vocational Education - policy and practice in the field of SNE

• Information Provision
  - Qualitative and quantitative indicators
  - Key Principles for policy and practice
  - Higher Education Accessibility Guide
Inclusion in Europe

• Developments and challenges
### Percentage of pupils in the compulsory school sector recognised as having SEN in 2008 (in all educational settings)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Countries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0% - 2%</td>
<td>Bulgaria, Greece, Sweden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2% - 4%</td>
<td>Austria, Denmark, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, UK (England), UK (Wales)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4% - 6%</td>
<td>Belgium (FI), Belgium (Fr), Cyprus, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Latvia, Malta, Norway, Switzerland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6% - 10%</td>
<td>Czech rep., Finland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; 10%</td>
<td>Estonia, Lithuania</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Percentage of pupils with SEN in segregated settings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Countries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Up to 1.0%</td>
<td>Cyprus, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Malta, Austria,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bulgaria, France, Iceland, Lithuania, Luxembourg,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Luxembourg, Poland, Sweden, UK (England), UK (Scotland), UK (Wales)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.01% - 2.0%</td>
<td>Denmark, Finland, Hungary, Latvia, Netherlands,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Belgium (FI), Belgium (Fr), Czech Rep., Estonia,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Germany, Switzerland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.01% - 4.0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.01% and above</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Inclusion: Developments in Europe

Progress
- More continuum of services
- Funding
- Resource centre

Challenges
- Output and SEN
- Secondary education
- 2% in separate settings
UN convention on the rights of people with disabilities (2006)
Article 24 - Education

States parties are requested to ensure an inclusive education system at all levels

- 142 signatories to the Convention
- 85 signatories to the Optional Protocol
- 66 ratifications of the Convention
- 44 ratifications of the Optional Protocol
Ratification of the optional protocol by European Agency member countries

• Austria – 26 September 2008
• Belgium – 2 July 2009
• Germany - 24 February 2009
• Hungary - 20 July 2007
• Italy - 15 May 2009
• Slovenia - 24 April 2008
• Spain - 3 December 2007
• Sweden - 15 December 2008
• UK incl. Northern Ireland – 7 August 2009
Map of signatures and ratifications, 01.09.09
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