Organisation of Provision

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European Agency for Development in Special Needs Education

The Agency

- 17th year of operations
  - 1996 - established as an initiative of the Danish Ministry of education following the end of the EU HELIOS programme
  - 1999 - the original 15 member countries 'took ownership' of the Agency
- Secretariat based in Odense, Denmark
- Centre of Activity in Brussels, Belgium

Funding

The Agency is financed by:

- The member countries' Ministries of Education

- The European Commission as one of the six organisations supported by the Jean Monnet, Lifelong Learning Programme

Agency member countries

- National networks in 28 European countries:

  Austria, Belgium (Flemish and French speaking communities), Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales)

Strategic Objectives

- The promotion of quality in the field of special needs and inclusive education through the maintenance of a long-term framework for extended European collaboration

- Our work is in line with the Council priorities as identified in the ET 2020 strategy and in accordance with international agreements, such as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (United Nations, 2006) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (United Nations, 1989)

Working parameters

- Countries are at different starting points and have different 'histories' in terms of education generally and inclusive education specifically

- No-one country has all the answers – many countries have clear examples of innovative practice, but all countries are still 'moving ahead'

Activities

- Collection, analysis and dissemination of information on priority themes

- Participation in and organisation of conferences, seminars and political events

- Liaison with European institutions and international organisations – UNESCO and its institutes (IBE, IITE), OECD Eurostat, Eurydice, Cedefop, World Bank

Information Provision

The Agency offers various information resources, which can be accessed via the website:

www.european-agency.org

- – Project web areas
- – Country information area
- – Reports, literature reviews, policy flyers
- – News section, newsletter and the eBulletin

Agency publications can be freely downloaded in up to 22 European languages

Agency Publications

Some Recent and Current projects

- Teacher Education for Inclusion

- Vocational Education and Training

- Organisation of Provision to Support Inclusive Education

- ICT for Information Accessibility in Learning

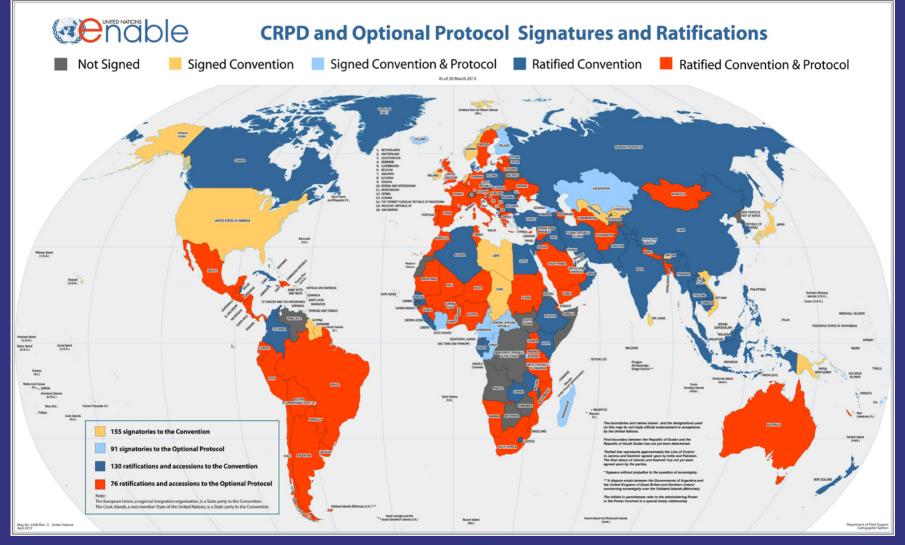- Raising Achievement for All Learners in Inclusive Education

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

- 156 signatories to the Convention
- 91   signatories to the Optional Protocol
- 134 ratifications of the Convention
- 77   ratifications of the Optional Protocol

Map of signatures and ratifications, 17.09.2013

Ratification of the optional protocol by European Agency member countries

Austria - 26 September 2008

Belgium – 2 July 2009

Cyprus- 26 June 2011

Estonia – 30 May 2012

France - 18 February 2010

Germany - 24 February 2009

Greece 31 May 2012

Hungary - 20 July 2007

Italy – 15 May 2009

Latvia – 31 August 2010

Lithuania – 18 August 2010

Luxembourg – 26 Sept 2011

Malta 10 October 2012

Portugal – 23 September 2009

Slovakia- 26 May 2010

Slovenia - 24 April 2008

Spain - 3 December 2007

Sweden - 15 December 2008

United Kingdom – 7 August 2009

Percentage of pupils with SEN in segregated settings

Up to 1.0%	1.01 %- 2.0%	2.01%- 4.0%	4.01% and above
Cyprus	Austria	Denmark	Belgium (Fl)
Greece	Bulgaria	Finland	Belgium (Fr)
Ireland	France	Hungary	Czech Rep.
Italy	Iceland	Latvia	Estonia
Malta	Lithuania	Netherlands	Germany
Norway	Luxembourg		Switzerland
Portugal	Poland		
Slovenia	Sweden		
Spain	UK (England)		
	UK (Scotland)		
	UK (Wales)		

Organisation of Provision to Support Inclusive Education

Organisation of Provision to support Inclusive Education

- Aims to address the question: 'how are systems of provision organised to meet the needs of learners identified as having disabilities'

- Focuses on inclusive settings within the compulsory school sector

- Will provide information on how countries organise provision for learners with disabilities; explore key issues and challenges and include information on innovative ways forward and change management

Organisation of Provision project activities

- Gathering country information via a questionnaire

- Producing a literature review to support project activities

- Visiting 5 selected sites to explore and document policy and practice in Essunga, Sweden; Flensburg, Germany; Ljubljana, Slovenia; Valetta, Malta and Vienna, Austria

- Holding 5 thematic seminars in the above countries to explore key issues

Organisation of Provision project outcomes

- Literature review (September 2013)

- Reports of 5 site visits to Essunga, Sweden; Flensburg, Germany; Ljubljana, Slovenia; Valetta, Malta and Vienna, Austria (September 2013)

- Reports of 5 thematic seminars in the above countries (December 2013)

- Synthesis report bringing together all project activities to draw conclusions and make recommendations (Early 2014)

- Change management tool drawing on the project's exploration of successful practice (Spring 2014)

More information

www.european-agency.org

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