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DANISH PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION 2012

RA4AL



ODENSE KOMMUNE

**RAISING ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL LEARNERS**  
QUALITY IN INCLUSIVE EDUCATION (RA4AL)

Overview of the Raising Achievement for All  
Learners (RA4AL) project

13th - 15th June 2012, Odense, Denmark



European Agency for Development in Special Needs Education

# Setting the scene

Raising Achievements for all learners is a key priority at European level (ET 2020 objectives) as well as at national level (2010 Country Survey: identified as a clear priority for countries for further investigation at European level).

## Key Questions:

- 1 – What does the topic ‘Raising Achievements’ mean? Which achievements? What is the meaning of ‘raising’?
- 2 – What are the expectations in terms of which learners should be considered?
- 3 – The policy priorities clearly highlight the topic as a quality issue. What does quality mean?
- 4 – How can quality and raised achievements be identified?



# Setting the scene

## Highlighted issues and topics:

- Focus: *all learners* and how we can use effective approaches that work with all learners. *Meaningful participation in the learning environment*, not learners' specific needs.
- Terminology: *definitions* of 'raising' and 'achievements'
- *Raising Achievement as a rights issue*: all learners' right to access curriculum
- *Raising Achievement as a quality issue*: identification of the factors involved in quality education



# Setting the scene

## Highlighted issues and topics:

- *Academic and social aspects* of learning: communication and social skills are essential as academic knowledge.
- *How learning achievements can be effectively identified*: how can progress and achievement of learners be meaningfully measured?
- *The role of different actors in raising achievements*: raising the expectations of policy makers, teachers, parents and learners themselves



# RA4AL project overview

- One-year project (December 2011- November 2012), supported under Commission LLP Comenius Accompanying Measures funding .
- The one-year project will be phase 1 of the Agency RA4AL project.

## PROJECT AIM:

To address the need expressed by policy makers for more information on quality education in inclusive settings as a strategy for raising achievement for all learners by identifying:

- *the issues that need to be explored*
- *strategies at the policy level that appear to be successful in raising achievement for all learners in inclusive settings.*



# RA4AL project overview

- RA4AL Conference (Odense, 13-15 June, 2012) with the participation of representatives from 3 key target groups, from 27 European countries:
  - Policy makers on general education
  - Policy makers on inclusive education
  - Researchers in inclusive education



# CONFERENCE AIMS

- to explore initiatives and approaches that appear to be successful in improving the quality of education in inclusive settings
- to identify some factors that support the raising achievement of all learners to improve life chances and provide better opportunities for full participation in society
- to raise awareness of the benefits of European co-operation among policy makers and researchers



# Expected Outcomes

- A clear rationale in relation to quality education in inclusive settings as a way to raise the achievement for all learners
- A synthesis of relevant information to support recommendations and key policy messages relating to raising achievement for all learners in national and European contexts
- (This will be used as the basis for phase 2 work by the Agency in a further thematic project)

