
European Agency for Special Needs and Inclusive Education

Insert Presenter's
name and title



The Agency

- We are an independent organisation that acts as a platform for collaboration for the ministries of education in our member countries
- Our work focuses on improving all learners' achievement at all levels of inclusive lifelong learning
- Our main aim is to help member countries improve their educational policy and practice for learners with disabilities and/or special educational needs. We do this by combining the perspectives of policy, practice and research in order to provide member countries and stakeholders at the European level with evidence-based information and guidance on implementing inclusive education



History

- 1996 – established as an initiative of the Danish Ministry of Education following the end of the EU HELIOS II programme
- 1999 – the original member countries (15 EU member states, Iceland and Norway) ‘took ownership’ of the Agency
- 2003 – the Agency obtained a legal basis at the European level that was approved by the European Parliament



Member countries



Currently

- 29 member countries: Austria, Belgium (Flemish and French speaking communities), Croatia, 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 and United Kingdom (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales)
- Secretariat in Odense, Denmark
- European Liaison office in Brussels, Belgium



Funding

The Agency is financed by:

- member countries' ministries of education
- European Commission's Erasmus+ Programme



Mission

To help member countries improve their educational policy and practice for learners with disabilities and special educational needs



What we do

Our work focuses on meaningfully improving all learners' achievement at all levels of inclusive lifelong learning. This enhances learners' life chances and opportunities for actively participating in society



What we do (2)

We provide member countries and stakeholders at the European level with evidence based information and guidance on implementing inclusive education



Strategic objectives

- To promote quality in the field of special needs and inclusive education by maintaining a long-term framework for extended European collaboration
- To facilitate effective exchange of knowledge and experience among and within member countries
- To identify key factors that hinder or support progress and provide countries with information and guidance
- To analyse and review policy developments in countries in order to support the development of sustainable and effective inclusive education systems



Context

- The Agency works to a 2014–2020 Multi-Annual Work Programme
- Projects and activities are identified via Agency representatives as being priority for their countries
- All Agency activities are in alignment with European Council priorities and objectives for education



Key activities

- Country review and analysis to provide information for member countries on their progress and developments
- Thematic projects focusing on priority topics identified by member countries
- Data collection and statistics
- European hearings, conferences, thematic seminars, workshops and political events to raise awareness, share information and facilitate networking
- Information dissemination via printed and digital media



Recent Agency projects

- Raising Achievement for All Learners (2011–2014)
- Vocational Education and Training (2010–2013)
- Organisation of Provision to Support Inclusive Education (2011–2014)
- ICT for Inclusion (2011–2013)



Ongoing and new Agency projects

- ICT for Information Accessibility in Learning (2012–2015)
- Raising the Achievement for All Learners in Inclusive Education (2011–2016)
- EA Statistics on Inclusive Education (EASIE) data collection
- Inclusive Pre-Primary Education (2015–2017)
- Financing of Inclusive Education (2015–2016)



Information dissemination via printed and digital media

The Agency offers various information resources on its website:

www.european-agency.org

- Project web areas
- Country information pages and [national organisation of provision](#)
- Publications – reports, literature reviews, policy flyers
- News, Events section, Director’s Blog, eBulletin

Agency publications can be downloaded for free in up to 23 official languages



Agency Publications



Information dissemination at special events

- Thematic seminars and workshops
- Project meetings and conferences
- EU Presidency events
- Parliament Hearings for young people



Special Events

- European Parliament [Hearing 2003](#)
- Portuguese Parliament Hearing/Portuguese Presidency [event 2007](#)
- French Presidency event 2008
- Spanish Presidency [event 2010](#)
- Hungarian Presidency [event 2011](#)
- European Parliament [Hearing 2011](#)
- Cyprus Presidency [event 2012](#)
- Danish Presidency [event 2012](#)
- Greek Presidency [event](#) in 2014



Parliament Hearing 2007 in Portugal



- European Hearing of Young People with Special Educational Needs organised by the Agency, within the framework of the Portuguese Presidency of the European Union and the European Year of Equal Opportunities
- The event took place in Lisbon within the framework of the Portuguese Presidency of the European Union
- The Lisbon Declaration [Young People's Views on Inclusive Education](#) is the main result of this event



Lisbon Declaration 2007

- ‘We have the right to the same opportunities as everyone else, but with the necessary support to meet our needs. No one’s needs should be ignored’
- ‘Teachers need to be motivated, to be well informed about and understand our needs. They need to be well trained, ask us what we need and to be well coordinated among themselves’

<http://www.european-agency.org/publications/ereports/young-voices-meeting-diversity-in-education/young-voices-meeting-diversity-in-education>



European Parliament Hearing Brussels, 2011

- 88 young people, both with and without special educational needs and/or disabilities, from secondary and vocational education met to discuss what inclusive education means to them



European Parliament Hearing Brussels, 2011

- The young delegates discussed the right to quality of education, to choice and to equality and respect.
- Inclusion is beneficial for all; it creates the opportunity to learn and share experiences.
- The importance of the role of teachers and their peers.
- Inclusion is the first step to being full members of society.



<http://www.european-agency.org/agency-projects/european-hearing-2011>





Inclusive Education in Europe

Inclusive Education in Europe: Putting Theory into Practice International Conference

- First Results from the International Conference report
- Reflections from Researchers report
- Five Key Messages for Inclusive Education report, available in 22 languages, summarising an essential part of the work conducted by the Agency in the last decade



'Inclusive Education: Take Action!'

Luxembourg Recommendations

- 4th Parliament Hearing in Luxembourg on 16 October 2015



More information

www.european-agency.org

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