



MAPPING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICY FOR INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

Conference

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**Mr. Jørgen Greve, Chairman
European Agency for Development in Special Needs Education**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to thank Mr Delsartre, Mr Van Rompu and Ms Bernaldo de Quirós for their welcome and introductions.

On behalf of the European Agency for Development in Special Needs Education, I want to emphasise that the issue of mapping policies for inclusive education is a recognised priority in Agency member countries. All countries need to track the implementation of new educational policies and legislation.

The justifications and pressures for mapping such developments are very clear at:

- International level (as can be seen in the UN 2006 Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities calls for data collection and monitoring at State level);
- European level (as outlined in the Lisbon objectives 2010 and also European Council priorities and targets outlined in the ET2020 documents);
- National levels and the fact there are Representatives of 26 Agency member countries participating in project activities so far supports this statement.

Various sources of such information relating to mainstream education are already available to policy makers from international organisations such as Eurostat and the OECD. In addition, there are initiatives being taken at European level (co-ordinated by Eurostat) to explore specific quantitative data collection relating to special needs education.

We are very happy that the Agency is actively co-operating with Eurostat and the Units within the European Commission working in this area of work.

However, the Agency's work with policy makers in member countries indicates that there are gaps in the information that is currently available and so the MIPIE project and this conference are first steps to addressing those gaps by identifying proposals agreed by policy makers themselves regarding *what* information is required and *how* they can track and map the implementation of policies or inclusive education in the best ways.

This is an ambitious project, but potentially a very important one and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking you all in advance for your important contributions to the discussions.

Thank you for your attention and my thanks once again to our speakers for their useful inputs.