

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

On behalf of Deputy State Secretary for Public Education, Mr Zoltán Gloviczki, I would like to welcome the participants of the conference. I am Zsuzsa Sipkai from the Ministry of National Resources, Budapest, Hungary. Unfortunately, Mr Gloviczky is not able to be with us today due to urgent preparatory tasks for the 2011 Hungarian Presidency of the EU but sends his sincere apologies and have asked me to share his thoughts with you in a few words.

Dear Guests and Organisers,

The Department for Public Education of the Ministry of National Resources is very much in favour of this European Agency initiative. Based on our experiences in strategic planning and educational development there is a vital need on the expected outcomes of this project since policy makers need appropriate for their work.

Hungary has started major educational reforms after joining the EU in 2004. For further steps a common knowledge with other member states about what information should be jointly collected would be helpful in monitoring and evaluation of the results. Changing our education systems to more open and inclusive structures can be stimulated with adequate measures utilizing data and good practice of other countries.

This conference in Brussels aims to be get answers to WHAT indicators should be collected and WHY. I am very sorry that I have to miss the opportunity to be a part of this discussion in person. However I really look forward to welcoming you in the Budapest conference next March to find answers to the question of HOW to collect those indicators.

*I wish you a very successful conference. See you in Budapest.*