

# Introduction to the European Agency

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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](http://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



# Special Events

- European Parliament Hearing in Brussels 2003
- Portuguese Parliament Hearing in Lisbon 2007
- European Parliament Hearing in Brussels 2011



# Parliament Hearing in Brussels November 2011



# ‘Inclusive education is mutually beneficial to us and to the others’



We see a lot of benefits in inclusive education: we acquire more social skills; we live more experiences; we learn about how to manage in the real world; we need to have and interact with friends with and without special needs



# Some Recent and Current projects

- Teacher Education for Inclusion
- Vocational Education and Training
- Organisation of Provision to Support Inclusive Education
- ICT for Inclusion
- Raising Achievement for All Learners in Inclusive Education
- ICT for Information Accessibility in Learning



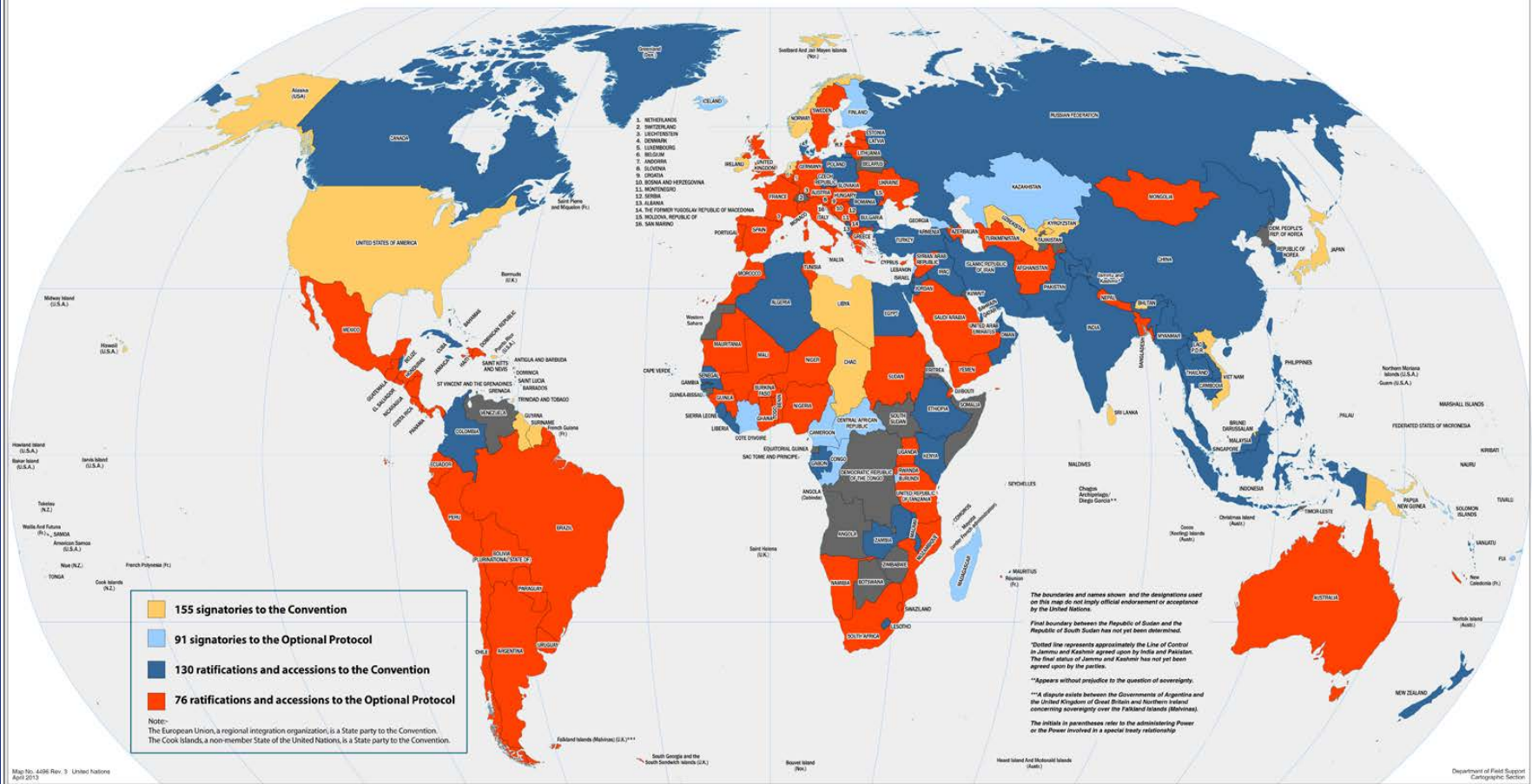
# Map of signatures and ratifications, 17.09.2013



## CRPD and Optional Protocol Signatures and Ratifications

Not Signed
  Signed Convention
  Signed Convention & Protocol
  Ratified Convention
  Ratified Convention & Protocol

As of 20 March 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)		





# New name of the Agency

The European Agency for Special  
Needs and Inclusive Education

(from 1 January 2014)



# More information

[www.european-agency.org](http://www.european-agency.org)

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