

STATEMENT

on Promoting Inclusive Education Systems in Europe

Brussels, 9 April 2014

Through its **STATEMENT on promoting inclusive education systems in Europe**, the incluD-ed Network calls on current and future members of the European Parliament and the European Commission, as well as representatives of all European Member States, to consider and include the following recommendations regarding the development of inclusive education systems into their work programmes for the period 2014–2020.

To advance the vision of 'Europe 2020' and achieve a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy in coming years, inclusive education systems need to be promoted, developed and established throughout the EU. High levels of employment, productivity and social cohesion - priorities of EU2020 - cannot be achieved without establishing inclusive education systems.

includ-ed bases this statement on:

- the European Charter of Fundamental Rights (articles 21 and 26 on persons with disabilities);
- the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, signed by the European Union and its Member States (particularly article 24 on education).

includ-ed highlights that:

- European Member States have already experienced positive results from implementing inclusive education for students with special educational needs;
- inclusive education benefits all learners and strengthens social cohesion;
- access to and permanence in the education system ensures equal opportunities for all and is a main source of labour and social inclusion.

includ-ed requests that the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Council of the European Union take steps in contributing to:

- the development of a European strategy urging Member States to implement inclusive education systems at all levels, bringing Europe in line with objectives set out in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
- encourage Member States to invest in inclusive education to achieve 'Europe 2020' targets.

Includ-ed calls on the development of inclusive education systems by Members States that:

- enable early special educational needs detection mechanisms for qualified early and personalised support;
- establish mechanisms that facilitate transitions between the different stages of both education and employment;
- establish a framework of services that supports inclusive education, particularly for students that require high-level support;
- promote and support participation of students with special educational needs in post-compulsory education and university;
- enhance universally accessible curricula for lifelong learning and accessibility of ICT in an educational context;
- reinforce teacher training to ensure quality inclusive education;
- monitor progress, collect reliable data and best practices.