

P2I – PATHWAYS TO INCLUSION – EUROPEAN BAROMETER REPORT

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EASPD has published the ‘Barometer of Inclusive Education in Selected European Countries’ report on the state of inclusive education at a national level in 13 European countries. The study aimed to dig deeper and assess the implementation of inclusive education for persons with special educational needs at a national level.

Time and again persons with disabilities have faced hurdles when it comes to accessing high quality education. The UNESCO Salamanca Statement of 1994 and UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of 2006 (UN CRPD) advocate for the right persons with disabilities have to inclusive education. Having signed the UNCRPD, the EU has committed itself supporting Member States to re-shape their educational system to make them more inclusive. Despite this, not a single member state has yet lived up to its full capacity in achieving inclusive education. The Barometer report is of interest to all who work in the field of education. The report aims to draw attention to the realities of education in Europe to equip policymakers and other stakeholders with the information they need to support the development and implementation of inclusive education policies. Some key findings suggested that even today quite a few of the member states face basic barriers like adapting equipment in classrooms, in-accessible mainstream school buildings, to name a few. Nevertheless, there is a ray of hope as the Barometer report suggests that overall awareness about special education needs of children with disabilities has increased in the EU member states.

The report also intends to further increase awareness of the rights of pupils with disabilities and to develop ways to ensure they can benefit from high-quality education in an inclusive setting. Additionally, making sure that special needs are taken into consideration and pupils do not face discrimination arising from their disability.