Why we care about Education

Living in your own place.
Having friends.
Making your own choices.
Being good at something.
Belonging.

We all share these goals.
For ourselves.
For others.
Parents for their children.
Teachers for the students.

Schools is where it starts.

School is very important for children.
It is a place where they learn about things.

School is a place where students prepare for future work and what life will throw at them.
School is a place where children play together, where they make friends.

**Schools lets us develop as humans**

We need schools where all children can be together. Because they learn to work and to be with one another.

To understand and respect each other.
To look beyond differences.

School is a place to learn new skills.
To learn things for the future.
Students can learn how to look for answers.
Students can find out what they are good at.

We need schools where teachers give the right support.

Where teachers find ways to bring out the best in all students.

A mother says:

“Inclusion at school is good for my daughter because it teaches her new skills. She can deal with hard problems while being with other students”.
There is progress

Our movement with Inclusion Europe worked a lot to make education of children with disabilities a reality. Some progress was made. Some children with intellectual disabilities go to school with children without disabilities.

More and more people know inclusive education is good. Some people with intellectual disabilities became teachers. All children have the right to get a good education.

It’s not enough

But there are still many children that are not going to school.

Children and students with intellectual disabilities have the right to learn together.

Separation of children with and without disabilities in schools is bad. It breaks relations between children. It limits future job possibilities.
It makes it more difficult for families and society afterwards. But the world of education is changing! It is becoming more about flexibility and relationships. This will be even more the case in the future.

**What we should do**

Separated education should be in the past.

There are a few things that we should do.

We should promote and make sure that all students are in the same classroom.

That education methods are adapted to every student.

That teachers have enough skills, time and tools.

We should stop trying to find examples of places where “inclusive education” worked at local level and change the bigger system.

The government should spend enough money on inclusive education to make it accessible.

Other people are victims of school exclusion like girls, children with all kinds of disabilities, Roma children.

We should work together with them.
We must make sure education continues at every age.

Online education must also be possible and accessible. People with intellectual disabilities should be able to teach and do research.

“Special school” should help and share their experience.

Everyone should be heard:
- People with intellectual disabilities
- Disability organisations
- Parents
- People who went in inclusive education
- Other victims of exclusion
- Teachers

Some words should not be used:

The word “special” should not be used for people with intellectual disabilities.

The word “alternative” should not be used for education because education should be “inclusive”.

Make sure we do not get confused:
- Integration is not inclusion
- It is not inclusive education if there is no accommodation, no support and no full participation

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20 million people with intellectual disabilities and their families from 39 countries.

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