

# Inclusive education of children with complex needs: a parent's perspective

Oliver Linz
Treasurer of Lebenshilfe

All Means All: Ensuring quality education for all learners Europe in action 2016, Cascais



- Schooling of children with disability in Germany
- •What do parents in Germany think about inclusive education?
- Individual experiences
- From counting to quantity structure: learning numeracy



- Schooling of children with disability in Germany
- •What do parents in Germany think about inclusive education?
- Individual experiences
- •From counting to quantity structure: learning numeracy



# Schooling of children with disability in Germany

- •Since 1919: compulsory schooling for all german children, often not applied for children with intellectual disability or complex needs til the 1960ies
- •Starting 1960: different kinds of schools for special needs (intellectual disability, blind, deaf etc.)
- •As a result: segregated schooling for children with disabilities takes place



# Schooling of children with disability in Germany

- •Since 1970: parents movement for integrative education
- •Since 1970: first private integrative class in Munich followed by several model projects
- •1973: Recommendation of the national board on education: "Integrative education as much as possible"



# Schooling of children with disability in Germany

- •1975: Fläming primary school, Berlin: Integration of children with disability, also with complex needs
- •Since 1990: inclusive education in Germany increases step by step, generally pushed by parents



# Inclusive education in Germany today

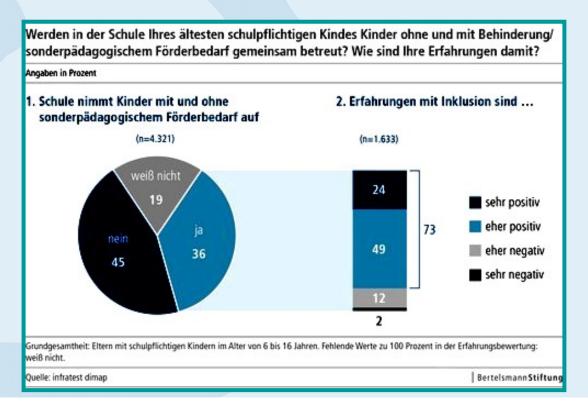
- Inclusive education is grounded in laws
- •Great variety of proportion, e.g. relatively high in Bremen/Schleswig-Holstein 55%, relatively low in Niedersachsen 11% (2011/12)
- Still a lot of special needs schools
- •Slowly but steady growing number of children with disability in inclusive schooling



- Schooling of children with disability in Germany
- •What do parents in Germany think about inclusive education?
- Individual experiences
- •From counting to quantity structure: learning numeracy



# What do parents in Germany think about inclusive education?





# Most parents (and teachers) judge inclusive education positive, if conditions are good:

- Enough and qualified teachers
- Appropriate rooms and materials
- Good learning conditions for all children
- Parents without own experience of inclusive education are more critical
- •But for children with complex needs or intellectual disabilities the views are more skeptical (58%/ 44%)



## Teachers in inclusive schools are rated better

- Better able to explain (86% vs 77%)
- Foster strengths of pupils better (72% vs 60%)
- Are especially engaged (70% vs 58%)
- •Observe the development of children more intensely (46% vs 41%)
- •Provide learning tasks in a more differentiated way (35% vs 17%)



- Schooling of children with disability in Germany
- •What do parents in Germany think about inclusive education?
- Individual experiences
- •From counting to quantity structure: learning numeracy











- Schooling of children with disability in Germany
- •What do parents in Germany think about inclusive education?
- Individual experiences
- From counting to quantity structure: learning numeracy





