



MAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

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7 – 8 November 2012



Short introduction of myself

- General Director of the Dutch Association of Independent Schools (VBS)
- Governor of the National Centre for Community schools in The Netherlands
- Chairman of the European Council of National Associations of Independent Schools (ECNAIS)





MAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

- **OWNERSHIP**
- **SELF-ORGANISATION & SELF-MANAGEMENT**
- **DIVERSITY**



DUTCH SYSTEM OF FREEDOM OF EDUCATION I

OWNERSHIP

- Dual system of private and public schools
- Foundations- and associations of schools
- Role of the municipalities



Public & Independent schools in The Netherlands

	Prim. Educ.	Sec. Educ.
• Public Schools	33%	28%
• Independent Schools	67%	72%



DUTCH SYSTEM OF FREEDOM OF EDUCATION II

SELF-ORGANISATION & SELF-MANAGEMENT

- Schools can choose for an own identity
- Equal funding of public & private schools
- Autonomy for all schools
- Room for diversity in practice
- Legal demands for all schools (public and private)



DUTCH SYSTEM OF FREEDOM OF EDUCATION III

DIVERSITY

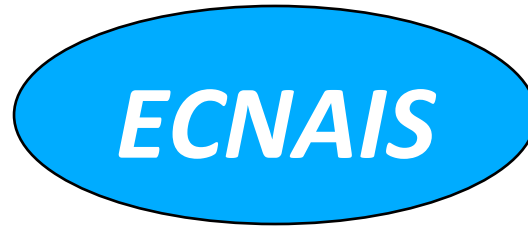
- Pedagogical entrepreneurship
- Denominational schools
- Traditional renewing schools
- Modern renewing schools



DUTCH SYSTEM OF FREEDOM OF EDUCATION IV

- Independent Schools **90% denominational**
(catholic, protestants, christian, islamic etc.)
- Independent Schools **10% non-denominational**
(a lot are pedagogical renewing schools)





REPORT OF THE DUTCH EDUCATIONAL COUNCIL

*Freedom of education in social perspective
(April 2011)*

- Message to the politicians: Hands off of the constitutional freedom of education
- Freedom of education is of immense value
- A pledge for more room to start a new school
- The importance of new initiatives on the bases of pedagogical believes



EXAMPLES OF INNOVATIVE SCHOOLS IN THE NETHERLANDS I

- Bilingual Education
- International Orientated Education



EXAMPLES OF INNOVATIVE SCHOOLS IN THE NETHERLANDS II

- Traditional renewing schools
- Sudbury Valley School (*Iederwijs*)
- Kinder Campus (New learning)
- Education for highly gifted (talented) children
- Community school



EXAMPLES OF INNOVATIVE SCHOOLS IN THE NETHERLANDS III

- ‘Multitalent’ approach
- Cooperative learning (Kagan)
- Focus on technics or ict or culture etc.



EXAMPLES OF INNOVATIVE SCHOOLS IN THE NETHERLANDS IV

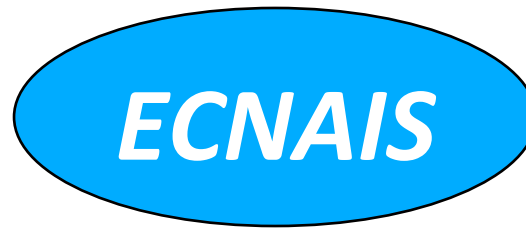
- Cosmicus schools
- Teacher cooperative schools



FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS IN DUTCH SCHOOL SYSTEM

- Stronger integration of special education within regular schools
- Improvement of the quality of teachers / headmasters
- Cooperation of schools with child care institutes & sport clubs within the local community
- Political debate about '*What*' and '*How*' in education





FINAL REMARKS

- Diversity and human measure are a strength for the educational system
- How to face future challenges for the new generation
- Sharing experience and expertise on European level about independent schools



25th year of existence of ECNAIS
in 2013 with a conference

“Schools as reservoirs of hope”

