Peter Borén (Sweden) is an Assistant Professor at Linnaeus University. His professional interests go from Management to Education, Pedagogy and Psychology.

He has worked as Coordinator in EU-Tempus project about Social Pedagogy and Social Work, as Coordinator of several SI international projects regarding Education, Dyslexia and Student exchange and as an expert in the Department of Culture creating the Agency of Living History.

During his presentation at the ECNAIS Conference in Warsaw, Peter Borén gave the audience a lecture about education’s history in Sweden. He pointed out how freedom in Education is a reality in Sweden. Although there is no independence of curriculum there is definitely pedagogical independence in schools.

Peter Borén also underlined the importance of educating for the future in order to achieve a multi-professional society.

Sweden has been seen as a successful case study in Education. Do you think that it still is?

Peter Bóren: I think we have a good school in Sweden but we are less successful. We have some problems, well, situations to solve. For instance, 15 to 20% of the population in Sweden is immigrant (Africa, Sudan and Afghanistan). Many are analphabets and they are also in the statistics.

So, what advice can Sweden give to countries like Portugal, Spain, Hungary and Italy that have so different Education systems than Sweden?
*Peter Bóren:* The advice is: you should take care of your teachers. They are professionals, they can handle School. You must spend money in in-service activities. Because all politicians say that the most important professional in the society is the teacher but they do not show it with money or resources.

But in Sweden, anyone can be a teacher. That was actually the most controversial point of your speech...

*Peter Bóren:* Yes. In Sweden since 1990 it is up to the headmaster to decide if someone is competent or not...

And do you believe that is the way? Isn’t it dangerous?

*Peter Bóren:* Of course it is dangerous. It is idiotic. But this is an ideological debate between the left and the right wing, who believe in different concepts of teaching. I think that if you are going to educate someone, it is obvious that you should be educated to do it, in order to educate well.

In your presentation you pointed out the problems with boys in school. Their grades are going down. Why is that?

*Peter Bóren:* I do not know why. But my experience tells me that girls are ruling schools. Girls work harder and mature in a different way. And the truth is, nowadays there are more women than men working in schools, so perhaps they understands and support girls more.