Education for children with special needs in the Netherlands

ECNAIS Seminar Prague November 2017
Wim Kuiper
General context

• Circa 30% public schools and 70% independent schools
• School boards responsible for ‘fitting education’
• Compulsary regional collaboration of all school boards
• Regional budgets based on national average
• Regional boards for primary and secondary schools in charge of allocation of pupils and finances
Policy aims

• Special schools only if regular schools really cannot handle
• Light care for children with special needs in regular schools regionally organised using ‘centers of expertise’ (special schools)
• Specialisation of regular schools on certain special needs
• Equal sharing of the burden
Problems and challenges

• Position of small school boards
• Allocation of pupils versus freedom of education
• Extra burden for teachers in regular schools
• Financial problems in certain regions
• No final solution for ‘homestayers’ (ca. 9,000 in 2016)