Fred Voncken
Director Early School Leaving
Ministry of Education, Culture and Science
The Netherlands

Unicef Conference
Istanbul, December 2013
Why a specific policy for ESL?

• Because education has a high rate of return:
  – Chance to find a job is two times as high;
  – Regions with low ESL score low on youth unemployment;
  – Crime rates are 5 times as high for ESL’s;
  – Lower costs of healthcare (3 million Euro/year);

Overall conclusion:
– Annual benefits of tackling ESL are higher than costs (900 vs 700 million Euro)
How to tackle ESL?

- Keep focus on pupil / student instead of system: total approach (bottom up)
- Output based policy (covenants): Each reduced individual ESL results in a 2500 Euro payment to the school
- Own choice of instrument to achieve objectives (menu list)
- Facilitate, monitor and evaluate; pressure and support: Benchmark / compare regions
Focus on results and monitoring

- Provide information on different levels with different background details.

- Information products: annual figures and monthly reports
Benchmark: Focus on regions in the Netherlands (Early school leaving figures for 2011/2012)
Recommendations

- Clear ambition shared by partners
- Monitoring and benchmarking
- Integrate ESL into comprehensive policies of all stakeholders
- Seek for long term political and financial commitment to reduce early school leaving
More information

www.aanvalopschooluitval.nl/english
www.vsvverkenner.nl/english