

BREAKING THE CYCLE OF DISADVANTAGE

Strategies for equality and inclusion in and through education & training

A contribution to the European Year 2010

MADO auditorium, 28 May 2010, 10.00-13.00



While education is often seen as a vehicle (and sometimes the *only* vehicle) out of social disadvantage, decades of research show that education and training policy initiatives alone will have only limited success in removing barriers to equality and inclusion unless they are articulated with wider social and economic reforms (such as improving employment, housing, or access to healthcare).

- *Which education and training policies and practices work to disrupt patterns of inequality, disadvantage, marginalisation and disengagement?*
- *What is the right point to break the cycle of disadvantage?*
- *How can extra resources best be targeted to disadvantaged schools and communities to promote equality, inclusion and social mobility? Do Priority Education Policies work?*
- *To what extent can education and training policy alone address the problems created by poverty and disadvantage and what are the necessary supportive conditions (in terms of employment, health, housing, migration and other policies) to maximise the impact of education and training measures? What are the synergies and partnerships that are shown to work and how can they be strengthened?*

With professor **Ides Nicaise** (University of Leuven)



Professor Ides Nicaise has a background in economics and is an expert on the links between education, labour market policy and social inclusion. His PhD was on the links between persistent poverty and inequalities in the education system. He is the leader of the research group on "education and lifelong learning" at [HIVA](#), a multidisciplinary research institute of the Catholic University of Leuven. His teaching and research interests include general economics, social profit management, labour economics, economics and sociology of education, and social security economics. In addition to his professional activities, Ides chairs the [Belgian Resource Centre for the Fight against Poverty](#), an interface between the government, the civil society and grassroots organisations defending the interests of the poor. This centre is linked with the Centre for Equal Opportunities and for the Fight against Racism. Ides has been involved in many national, European and international projects, including in research projects on equal opportunities and the education of socially excluded groups.