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# Research in the field of education and training



Erik Tierolf: In the sea (oil on canvas)



Erik Tierolf: Biker and car (oil on canvas)

# Socially creative strategies

## Educational priority policies (EPP)

- The allocation of funds to schools depending on the proportion of pupils in the school at risk of being excluded

# Target groups

## Children from:

- Parents with low level of education and professional qualifications
- Immigrant families with low level of education and language barriers
- Travelling or itinerant families

# Research in 6 European countries

- Belgium: qualitative research on the networks and conditions, quantitative research on students' performance
- Ireland: qualitative research on the structure of the actions, quantitative research on allocating funds among target schools
- Netherlands: quantitative research on students' performance, quality of the teaching staff
- Scotland: qualitative research on parent involvement and training of schools' staff, quantitative research into the rate of school attendance and student satisfaction.



# Results of research into EPP

- Macro-level: No difference in students' performance between schools in EPP's and those outside them
- The number of teacher hours spent on extended care have a positive effect on the pupils' progress
- Disadvantaged schools face poor conditions for an optimal utilisation of extra funds
- On micro-level the positive results on students' performance are more evident

# Instapje, Op Stap, Opstapje, Overstap

- Programs for children in backward situation in preschool period
- Quantitative research in quasi-experimental design
- Different results



# The Valencia Experience

- Evaluation of education vouchers in Spain.
- To facilitate the entrance to pre-school of children in backward situation. This should result in a decrease of educational inequality

# The Valencia Experience

- Method of research: 1) 7 year database of socioeconomic background of users of vouchers and 2) a survey amongst parents who used vouchers
- Results: more poor children entered preschool in the experimental period
- Through the vouchers more parents could choose freely the school for their children

# The Valencia Experience

- Problems:

- the research merely measured the use of vouchers;
- the way this leads to less inequality is not made clear;
- very few people used the vouchers, it is not made clear why?

Erik Tierolf: Jump  
(oil on canvas)

