

Hans Welling (1941)

Through this short introduction I would like to present myself to you.

I am married and I have three adult children.

My education and professional career can be described as follows:

During my training as a social worker I worked for 1,5 years in an institution for persons with addictions. After my graduation I began to work for a local administration institute for social services and during that time I started with my study of social sciences at the Radboud University of Nijmegen. This experience has been very interesting and valuable, as well as the years thereafter in the field of care for mentally disabled people.

In 1975 I was appointed as director of the Royal Institute for the Education of Visually Impaired and Blind. During the following years the developments in the care and education of visually disabled and blind people have led to the foundation of regional institutions for rehabilitation. Both parents, children and adults have been given the opportunity to choose care and education at home, in the neighbourhood or at the institution.

Nowadays 75% of the children attend regular education and every year ten thousand clients of Visio use the regional services all over the Netherlands.

In 2005 I will resign as chairman of the Board of Directors of Visio, National Foundation for the Visually Impaired and Blind, but I hope to be able to devote myself to international projects, in particular, ICEVI-Europe.