

Enable Ireland

The SPARCLE Project

Study of **P**ARTicipation and quality of life of **C**hildren with cerebral
palsy **L**iving in **E**urope



SPARCLE 1 South-West Ireland Local Report Executive Summary

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*Ms. Mary Courtney
Regional Director of Services, Enable Ireland South & West*

I am pleased to present the *Enable Ireland SPARCLE Report: 2003-2007*. The SPARCLE project is fundamentally based on the Social Model of Disability, one of Enable Ireland's Core Values, which promotes the idea that society and the environment must recognise and accommodate individual needs.

SPARCLE is the largest research project of its kind to have been conducted to date, with 818 children and their families from 7 European countries participating. We would like to thank the 98 participants and families who took part in the Cork/Kerry region.

An innovative and person-centred approach to research is demonstrated in the study design, with 61% of the children completing the questionnaires themselves. The use of the ICF framework to examine the influence of personal and environmental factors on health outcomes such as participation and quality of life is a scientific means of articulating the Social Model of Disability, and has been incorporated into our local services as a common language and framework for health, functioning and disability.

The collaboration between the European centres involved in the project is something to aspire to. Partnerships are particularly pertinent in contemporary society as they promote shared learning by maximizing use of resources in order to achieve a common objective.

The SPARCLE results have been and will continue to be used to plan future service developments within the wider context of the *National Disability Strategy* and the *Enable Ireland Strategic and Operational Plans 2009-11*.

We are currently implementing the second phase of SPARCLE, which is focusing on the transition from childhood to adolescence, and we look forward to integrating these research findings into future service developments, in line with our commitment to an evidence-based approach to service delivery.

Mary Courtney
Regional Director of Services
Enable Ireland South & West

