

## 2. ANNUAL REPORT 2013

### General

The process of reflection on the original impulse of ECCE as a nongovernmental organisation (NGO), which started in the end of 2010, continued in 2013 with a process concerning the future of ECCE, guided by Mrs. Clarine van Campagne, board member of the Iona Foundation in Amsterdam and experienced in guiding these processes. Otto Scharmer's Theory U based on the 3 fold human being (open mind, open heart, open will) was the guiding principle of the process. Theory U is about opening and deepening your attention. This relates immediately to the theme of the General Meeting 2013 *'the inner source of quality in relationships and communication'*.

The members decided during the General Meeting in Hungary (Szimbiozis Foundation, Miskolc) to support the future of ECCE and founded a working group to discuss this issue.

ECCE has a very limited budget and has to keep an eye on its objectives: representing the interests of people with disabilities on a European level and being active in the EU organs from the viewpoints of anthroposophy, which is quite a task and which takes most of the financial resources of ECCE! The work of ECCE is based on an ethical point of view. That means the inner quality of curative education and social therapy towards persons with disabilities and to the position of persons with complex dependency needs.

### Theme *'The inner source of quality'* and the symposium

The theme of the General Meeting in May 2013 in Szimbiozis Foundation, Miskolc, Hungary, was *'The inner source of quality'*. This was of course the main theme in the yearly symposium as well. The essence of the ECCE message is:

*Quality can be achieved or neglected in many different areas within the work of Curative Education and Social Therapy. One of the most important issues of quality lives in the relationships between people. Realising this brings us to important questions. The most important bridge between two people in which quality can be realised is in inter-communication (of whatever form is most appropriate), in the process of dialogue and in the direct relationship between people. A good dialogue and caring relationship may be conducted in many different ways and is based on individual consciousness and mutual awareness. How may a conscious, aware, and caring frame of mind be cultivated? Rudolf Steiner presents answers to these questions in his book 'How to gain knowledge of higher worlds'.*

To respect the dignity and freedom of every individual in living and working communities and therefore seeking the most appropriate and responsible guidance with respect to his inner being has become more and more the core of the talks and discussions between parents, curative educators and social therapists. These aspects have been the central issue of curative education and social therapy from the beginning in 1924.

Contributions were given by Mr. Erwin Fenyő, Mr. Michael Mullan, director of Breitenfurt, Austria and by Mr. László Jakubinyi, director of Szimbiozis Foundation.

### Co-operation with other European NGO's

ECCE does not have the power and financial resources to promote its interests on its own. In co-operation with other organizations, however, it can gain exposure to a large audience.

The International Council for Curative Education and Social Therapy is aware of the importance of the network set up by ECCE at the European level. The UN Convention gives a very good basis for the international work. Freedom of choice, freedom for people with a learning disability to live the way they choose, community building and living together are important issues to work at.

Members of the Committee of ECCE have regular meetings with the secretary general of the European Association of Service providers for Persons with Disabilities (EASPD), the director of Inclusion Europe (IE) and the director of the European Disability Forum (EDF).

Committee members of ECCE network on (annual) meetings of these organisations to make well-known the ideas and ways of working of curative education and social therapy.

ECCE frequented the EDF Annual General Assembly held on 25-26 May 2013 in Athens. This conference was part of the EU's wider efforts to promote the mainstreaming of disability issues in line with the EU Disability Strategy 2010-2020 and the UNCRPD.

The EASPD conference in Istanbul, 27-28 September 2013 with the theme '*Employment of persons with disabilities - Raising awareness & employment opportunities*' was attended as well. Good practices were shown about employment opportunities in several European countries, especially in Turkey. However the way of thinking in social therapy, about what it does to a person when he may contribute to the world, develop his or her artistic-handicraft abilities and skills and be estimated for it by others, seems to be quite an unknown vision, which has been brought in by ECCE during the final discussion. Social therapy really has a task to fulfill – in the way of thinking about work and training of persons with a learning disability and how they can be empowered to use their abilities and skills.

#### The 'Shadow report' as a reply on the EU reaction to UNCRPD

In 2012 ECCE decided to co-operate with EASPD on a shadow report<sup>1</sup> as a reply to the EU report concerning the implementation of the UN Convention on the rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). In June 2013 a delegation of ECCE discussed in Brussels with an EASPD delegation the outlines of that report. However the Disability unit of DG Justice of the EU did not yet present an official reaction on the UNCRPD in 2013 so this 'shadow report' still could not be drawn up. In the ECCE Annual Report 2012 was stated:

*The European Disability Strategy is intended to strengthen the combined potential of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and the UNCRPD and to make full use of Europe 2020 and its instruments. It sets in motion a process to empower people with disabilities, so that they can participate fully in society on an equal basis with others. As Europe's population ages, these actions will have a tangible impact on the quality of life of an increasingly large population. The EU institutions and the Member States are called upon to work together under this Strategy to build a barrier-free Europe for all. The impulse of anthroposophical curative education and social therapy can contribute to this process. Here lays a task for ECCE.*

#### **ELIANT**

Alliance ELIANT is a non-governmental organization (NGO) for civil society, founded by European NGO's in the area of applied anthroposophy (among which ECCE). After handing over more than 1 million signatures and the Memorandum to the European Commission (Action ELIANT, May 2011), the Alliance was founded. In accordance with its Charter, it has defined the following aims:

- support the products and lifestyle of applied anthroposophy in the Europe of the future;
- become an information platform for all citizens, institutions, initiatives and companies interested in the diversity and cultural development of Europe;
- show active commitment to the protection of fundamental human rights, social self determination, to cultural diversity and thus to more quality of life in Europe.

In the face of the economic downturn in the EU Member States and the ensuing problems in society, such as high unemployment, it is becoming increasingly important for the alliance ELIANT and the anthroposophic working fields to commit to these aims, whether independently or in co-operation with related organisations sharing its values.

ECCE represents about 30.000 European citizens with special needs. Most of these citizens cannot stand up for their rights and are dependent on others. For those Goethe's words – which is the motto of ELIANT - are a key: 'One alone does not help, but rather he who unites with others'. ECCE emphasizes that viewing people with disabilities as full and equal members of society is presently the core theme in society. This is underlined by the UNCRPD. The paradigms with regard to their rights as far as autonomous decision making is concerned are changing and approached by ECCE from an ethical point of view.

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<sup>1</sup> As part of the regular procedure, a country's non-governmental organizations submit "shadow reports" to the UN. The reports dispute a country's official report or provide information on unreported violations.

People in need of special care need regardful attention. ELIANT serves the objectives of ECCE by its pressure for free choice based on the human dignity of every human being and for cultural diversity. That is why ECCE co-operates in the framework of ELIANT with the areas of bio-dynamic agriculture, Waldorf education, anthroposophical medical treatment and therapies.

The ELIANT Newsletter of October 2013 was dedicated to ECCE with the title: "Dignity and freedom for people in need of special care", author Bernard Heldt, with a nice picture of the marriage of the daughter of Sabine von der Recke (with her permission).

During the year 2013 the Alliance ELIANT worked on its spear points on BD agriculture and anthroposophic medicine mentioned in the Memorandum.

For support, Alliance ELIANT wants to establish a circle of friends consisting of private donors, besides funds. See [www.eliant.eu](http://www.eliant.eu).

### **Congresses 'Living in the encounter'**

Although the congresses '*Living in the encounter*' don't fall under the responsibility of ECCE, ECCE follows and supports them as much as possible, because they are just in the centre of ECCE objectives. They are organised by a free initiative group, for and with people with special needs. See [www.in-der-begegnung-leben.eu](http://www.in-der-begegnung-leben.eu).

At the final session of the 5th Congress in Vienna the participants expressed their wish that there should be a 6th congress 'Living in the encounter'. This congress '*Creating social art*', will be held in Brussels (BE), 6-9 May 2015. See [www.ontmoetenisleven.be](http://www.ontmoetenisleven.be).

### **Committee issues**

- In the General Meeting of May 2013, Mr. Leonardo Fulgosi, representative of the Italian Fondazione per la Scuola 'Bruno Marchesin' and vice-president for years, retired as a member of the Committee. The president gave him a warm good bye speech.
- Mrs. Adrienne Thier, representative of the Flemish parent organisation GOVAG, retired from her function as president of ECCE, which she had held for 9 years. She was re-elected as a Committee Member.
- Mrs. Béatrice Cussac, representative of the French parent organisation Les Ravis, was re-elected as a Committee member.
- Mr. Bernard Heldt, for years representative of the Dutch Association for Curative Education and the Edith Maryon College, since 2013 supporting member, was re-elected as a Committee member. He is treasurer of ECCE and took over the function of Mr. Leonardo Fulgosi as a vice president.
- The Committee meetings in 2013 took place in Zeist, NL (9-10 March); Miskolc, HU (2 May); Paris, FR (27-28 July); Dornach, CH (11 October). Other meetings took place by skype and telephone.
- Mrs. Adrienne Thier, Mr Bernard Heldt and Mr. Michael Mullan attended the Council meeting and associated meetings in Dornach, 11-14 October 2013.
- Mr Bernard Heldt attended the ELIANT meetings in Brussels, 14 June and 8 December; the Annual General Assembly of the EDF, 23-26 May and the EASPD conference '*Raising awareness & employment opportunities*', in Istanbul, 27-28 September 2013.

ECCE can only succeed if its regular and Committee members give their energy and time to work on it in favour of the curative education and social therapy movement. Unfortunately the professional ECCE office – in the premises of the Edith Maryon College in the Netherlands (Zeist) - had to cope in 2013 with setbacks because of dropping out of the management assistant for health and family reasons. After a period of orientation the Committee decided to move the office to Vienna, where a capable management assistant, well known with the work of ECCE will manage the office from January 2014 on. In the intervening period the vice president temporarily managed the office. It is good to realise on how much voluntary work ECCE is based for 21 years, see page 5, point 1.6 of the financial report 2013.

### **Financial report 2013 page 5, point 1.6 Voluntary work:**

ECCE can only succeed if its regular and Committee members give their energy and time to work on behalf of the curative education and social therapy movement. There is a professional office to support them, It is good to realise on how much voluntary work ECCE is based on in 2013 for almost 22 years.

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Amount of time</b>
1 representing ECCE at European and national congresses;	8 days
2 preparing and attending meetings with other European NGOs in the field of education, care, support, schooling and work for children and adults with learning disabilities and psychiatric problems and with the European Disability Forum, of which ECCE is a full member;	5 days
3 preparing and attending meetings of the International Council for Curative Education and Social Therapy within the Medical Section of the School of Spiritual Science in Dornach - Switzerland;	7 days
4 guiding EU-projects like the Leonardo da Vinci project CESTE-NET;	--
5 preparing General Meetings; preparing and attending Committee meetings, Executive Committee meetings and working group meetings;	55 days
6 writing and editing policy papers, PR-documents, brochures and information documents;	28 days
7 giving lectures;	--
8 drawing up and controlling the budgets;	5 days
9 conforming financial reports with the auditor;	2 days
10 translations (though some translations by external translators are paid);	3 days
11 drawing up and editing the newsletter ECCE-LINK;	1 day
12 managing and posting up the website;	4 days
13 running the office, taking into account that its facilities are generously made at the disposal of ECCE by one of its members, the Edith Maryon College (NL). From the beginning of 2013 the vice president of ECCE operated the office without support of a management assistant.	72 days
<b>Total amount of time</b>	<b>190 days</b>

On behalf of the Committee ECCE,  
Bernard Heldt, vice president