



European Co-operation
in Anthroposophical Curative
Education and Social Therapy

What is ECCE?

The "European Co-operation in Anthroposophical Curative Education and Social Therapy" was founded in 1992 in the Netherlands by the Council for Curative Education and Social Therapy, with the objective to represent people with special needs and to protect their interests at the European level, from an anthroposophical perspective.

How is ECCE working?

The ECCE represents through umbrella organisations about 400 parents' associations and professional organisations in 18 European countries.

ECCE collaborates with other established organisations such as Inclusion Europe and EASPD (European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities) with the aim to make people with special needs visible in our society. ECCE is founder and full member of the European Disability Forum (EDF).

ECCE member-organisations provide a wide range of facilities, including education, work, residential care, support of families, home help, out-patient services and vocational training courses. Therapies, such as medical care and treatment, massages, movement therapy and several forms of art therapy are used.

Viewpoints

ECCE stands for the idea that these people have:

- the right to participate in a decent way of life in society suited to their individual potential,
- the right to live an individually chosen life-style in an assisted surrounding which enables and supports personal development and communication,
- the right to living conditions, education and therapy suited to their individual potential.

All concepts of assisting people with different kinds of special needs should be examined in order to see whether these concepts guarantee their quality of life .

In curative education and social therapy it is recognised that education, working or living is of benefit to all individuals involved and to society as a whole.

Employment of people with special needs

All human beings have the right to offer their contribution to society through work. People with special needs are no exception. The ECCE does not primarily focus on the economic point of view.

Contributions to society are interpreted by everybody in many different ways. A commitment can also be very personal.

Quality of life

Giving and receiving care, support and guidance is part of every day life. It is the foundation of a lively interaction between people, enriching society, and adding value to the quality of life. It establishes a relationship of responsibility between individuals, with or without special needs. Care and support should be an integral part of the life of the individual, because it enhances his or her quality of life.

Secretariat:

Renate Chwatal
Hasenoehrstrasse 12, A-1100 Vienna mob. + 31 65020 4989

e-mail: r.chwatal@ecce.eu
website: www.ecce.eu

ING-Bank acc. number 656 09 61
IBAN NL67INGB0006560961
BIC INGBNL2A

Into the mainstream

'Mainstreaming' expresses the basic idea of comparing society to a river. 'Normal' life is as the main flow of the river, confronting all different opportunities and risks life has to offer such as providing human dignity and a meaningful life for everyone. 'Into the mainstream' has become prominent as a goal to be achieved for both children and adults with special needs.

This mainstreaming movement is a great step forward for people with learning disabilities. However the flow of life in the mainstream can be too strong and competition too extreme for some children and adults with special needs. In a natural river there are lots of calm places where the same water flows calmly, though connected with the mainstream.

These calmer places can do a wonderful job in giving support and orientation and can also provide a meaningful and dignified life for people who are intellectually and physically incapable of swimming in the deep waters of the mainstream.

Co-operation in Europe

ECCE is a Non Governmental Organization (N.G.O.) and was in 1997 one of the founders of the European Disability Forum (EDF). The mission of the E.D.F. is to promote equal opportunities and human rights of disabled and chronically ill people in Europe. It stimulates emancipation and inclusion into society by setting up working groups in which disabled people or their representatives are directly involved. Besides that EDF takes part in discussions on the level of European authorities and publishes documents.

ECCE takes part in the Leonardo da Vinci programme with the CESTE-NET project, a project of the International Training Council which is part of the Council for Curative Education in Dornach, Switzerland. This project makes a contribution to the European strategies for vocational training by integrating artistic exercises and experience with art processes, and thus promoting attractiveness and quality into the vocational training programmes in the education, health and social sector. More is to be found on www.ceste-net.org.

ECCE is one of the initiators of the ELIANT project, **E**uropean **A**lliance of **I**nitiatives for **A**pplied **A**nthroposophy. ELIANT is working to ensure in view of growing European integration, that legislative framework conditions are created to safeguard the various aspects of applied anthroposophy, including education, nutrition and agriculture, special needs (curative) education and social therapy, medicine and therapeutic disciplines. It insists very strongly on the need for policies and a European legislative framework which would offer people a real diversity of choice when making decisions that affect the quality of their life and cultural diversity (see www.eliant.eu).

European congresses

In 1995, in Amsterdam, the three-day congress '*Together we work*' was held. The aim was to draw European attention to the social conditions in the field of labour of people with special needs.

In 2002, in the European Parliament in Strasburg, a three-day congress '*Let's learn to count on them*' was held under the high patronage of the European Commission. The subject was living, learning and working with people with complex dependency needs.

In 2008 ECCE organized and supported a congress with and for 700 persons with learning disabilities '*The tide is turning*' in The Hague, NL. This congress was initiated by the initiative '*Living in the Encounter*', which started in Berlin, Germany in 1998 with 500 participants and successfully continued in 2001 in Dornach, Switzerland. In the summer of 2005, 600 participants from 23 countries met in Central Europe, in Prague, Czech Republic.

Secretariat:

Renate Chwatal
Hasenoehrstrasse 12, A-1100 Vienna mob. + 31 65020 4989

e-mail: r.chwatal@ecce.eu
website: www.ecce.eu

ING-Bank acc. number 656 09 61
IBAN NL67INGB0006560961
BIC INGBNL2A