

ECCE Link

Nr. 19 – February 2017

Published by European Co-operation in
Anthroposophical Curative Education and Social Therapy
Hasenöhrstraße 12, 1100 Vienna, Austria
tel. +31 6 5020 4989; info@ecce.eu;

Editors: T. Kraus, R. Chwatal

Content

1. ECCE General Meeting, May 18-21, 2017 in Switzerland and silver Jubilee ECCE
2. World Congress for People with Disabilities, Sept. 7-10, 2017 in Yekaterinburg/Russia
3. First Italian National Congress for Persons with Disabilities, June 7-10, 2017, Trieste/Italy
4. 20 years EDF – European Disability Forum

1. ECCE General Meeting 2017 in Switzerland

In 2017 ECCE is celebrating its 25th anniversary, close to Dornach at “Sonnenhof”, Obere Gasse 10, Arlesheim, very near to the Goetheanum where the heart of curative education and social therapy beats. The celebrations will be held in connection with the next **ECCE General Meeting** from **May 18th - 21st, 2017**, with the theme “**building bridges**”.



Many of our members have already registered.

The accommodation is in 5 minutes walking distance to Sonnenhof, at **Hotel Eremitage**, Ermitagestrasse 2.

The gathering will start on **Thursday, May 18th** evening, with a lecture of Dr. Peter Selg about the history and the development of the impulse of Curative Education.

On **Friday, May 19th**, a common excursion with visits of 2 places, like Camphill Humanus in Bern, is foreseen, where visitors will encounter the presence of Curative Education.

Thereafter will be a visit to the exhibition of senses in the “Sensorium” near Bern and a dinner.

On **Saturday May 20th**, ECCE will take part in the yearly Inclusive Conference by the Swiss federation (VAHS), where ECCE participants will meet a group of about 120 people of residents, parents and coworkers from all over Switzerland. In five work groups the VAHS Conference with the title "ICH, DU, WIR - Gestaltungsraum zwischen Individualität und Gemeinschaft" and the ECCE theme „building bridges" will be combined.

Art and creativity, singing, land-art, a theatre group and a bakery workshop will be offered.

On **Saturday evening ECCE's 25th birthday** will be celebrated in a Restaurant.

Sunday morning, May 21st, the organizational part of the ECCE General Meeting will take place.



If you have more questions about this meeting, or if you have not registered yet and you intend to join the ECCE celebrations, please do not hesitate to contact us (renate.chwatal@gmx.at).

Renate Chwatal, on behalf of the ECCE Committee

2. First World Congress for People with Disabilities



www.socialartist.events



Hello World,

Recently, a small initiative group had another meeting in Yekaterinburg, where they discussed the months to come before the First World Congress. Outside, it was snowing, the temperature dropped to -21°; inside, the atmosphere was full of excitement and happy anticipation. We have been working on gathering all of you in Russia for four years already. Will we succeed? We know that for many it will be a very long and expensive trip, but in return they will receive something unforgettable.

The preparation of the Congress is in progress. We are impressed with the collaboration of the civil society and the state bodies who work together to make the World Congress a large-scale event. At this stage, what we really need is to raise public awareness about the Congress more actively. On the level of governments, this dissemination happens during their meetings in different countries. We inform embassies, state organs and enterprises about the Congress. We care about the participants, that is, you, dear friends! It is important for the preparation to go the best way possible; yet it is even more important for the Congress to improve the situation with people with disabilities in the world.

We managed to get a deal with local hotels about the accommodation for all participants. Universities and other educational facilities will research the event and, we hope, will learn much from what they observe. From a thousand volunteer applications we received, we will select 100 people who will help and assist you during the event. In the forthcoming months, we will work on the preparation of the Congress intensively.

In the workshops of Blagoe Delo NGO, the workers have been producing presents and gifts for each participant. An artist with a disability composed an anthem of the Congress, which we will learn together. There will be a drama performance, which will touch on some famous motives from *The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, showing them in a new light. This performance will rely on the participation of groups from all over the world and we hope that you will support us in that. When you submit your registration application, please let us know how you would be able to participate in making this idea come true. "Special" people will tell us about the life goals that they have achieved and activities they have done for other people. Values will be made visible through thoughts, art and activities. In the end of the Congress, there will be a gala-concert and a closing event. But we will not keep the Congress within closed community; we will try to make it visible in Yekaterinburg, the fourth largest city in Russia. To do so, we will prepare a special exhibition and another big event in which the city population will be included. For the moment, we keep the details about this latter event a mystery.

As you know, a hard winter is followed by a great summer. We are working on making it come true but we need your help! Many participants have already submitted their applications, but the majority is from Europe, where is the rest of the world? Let's make the First World Congress for persons with disabilities in Yekaterinburg a truly world-scale event. Join us, include yourself. We need you!

Welcome to Russia, to the Urals!

Thomas Kraus (*Initiator of worldwide congresses for persons with disabilities and secretary of ECCE*)

www.socialartist.events

The First World Congress for Persons with Disabilities Yekaterinburg, Russia, September 7 – 10, 2017

On 7-10 September, 2017, Yekaterinburg, one of the major Russian cities on the borderline between Europe and Asia, with the population of 1,5 million people, will host the First World Congress for Persons with Disabilities.

Vision of the Congress

The First World Congress for Persons with Disabilities:

- is a civil society initiative implemented with active support from and participation of people with disabilities, the Government of the host country, and businesses;
- is a socio-cultural event that aims to broaden cultural and interpersonal communication, enhancing the life quality of people with disabilities and the entire society;
- focuses on people with disabilities, their needs, and their role in the community at any level.

Objectives of the Congress:

- To make the principles and values of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities visible and effective;
- To promote the role of persons with disabilities in creating an inclusive society;
- To raise awareness of disability as a source for development of qualities in human encounters and social life;
- To highlight inherent dignity of persons with disabilities in different media, including artistic activity and creative practice.

More information and registration:

<http://kongress2017.ru/en/home/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/disabilitycongress2017/>

3. First Italian National Congress for Persons with Disabilities

Between June 7 - 10, 2017 Trieste/Italy, will host the First National Congress for Persons with Disabilities. The theme of the Congress **“I tell you about me, my home, my life, my friends”** has to do with the biography of the individual. The Congress is being planned with and for persons with special needs. The programme features are presentations and discussions, different workshops, sight-seeing tours in the city of Trieste and cultural events. The Italian Congress will happen for all Italian socialtherapy institutions, like “I Girasoli” and we all hope for a benevolent and fruitful meeting for around 40 participants.

Katia Delpiano, “I Girasoli”, Trieste

4. EDF, the European Disability Forum, celebrates its 20th anniversary

An independent Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO)

The European Disability Forum (EDF) is an independent NGO that represents the interests of 80 million people with disabilities in Europe.

Promoting disability rights

EDF was founded by its member organisations to ensure that decisions at the European level concerning persons with disabilities are taken with and by persons with disabilities. One of these founding member organisations was ECCE, who still is a full member. Being involved in the work of EDF means that ECCE, as full member, can stand for the right for children and adults with disabilities to have a free choice in where to live, to have education, and work. ECCE works on ‘Building bridges’. EDF works on a ‘Barrier-free Europe’.

20th anniversary of EDF

The motto of the anniversary campaign is ‘Nothing about us without us’. This means that no decision concerning the lives of persons with disabilities should be decided without their involvement.

If you want to read more about the work of EDF: see www.edf-feph.org

Ann Naeyaert, ECCE Committee member