

Content

1. We need you!
 2. ECCE and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
 3. Erasmus+ program
 4. ECCE General Meeting 2016 in Norway
-

1. We need you!

Today, I want to speak to the parents, and my message is simple: **we need you**. In many ways. First, we need to know... your needs. What do you expect from ECCE? How can our organization help more practical than just defending the role of curative education and social therapy at European level? Do you have any expectations in terms of knowledge of this pedagogy and the concepts behind it, do you need broader information of our partners, help in the creation or animation of your parents' association? As a parent I am touched by how the professionals are eager to help us, on the work they do every day with our children.

But how to do it? What type of bridges do we want? Between parents? Between parents and professionals? Between us and our children? At a time when we focus on the theme "building bridges", which we will discuss at our next general meeting, it is important to collect your expectations to feed our discussions and projects.

We need your commitment too. As a mother myself, I know how hard it is to combine a career, personal and family life, caring a disabled child, engage in an association... And yet, if we want ECCE to be representative, it is necessary that it carries the voice of professionals, disabled people and their parents. So we need to be supported by parents' associations and, even better, by parents who are involved alongside or within the board of ECCE.

Finally, and I speak here to you all of you, we need your financial support. We will talk about it during our general meeting but the conclusion is clear: we did not raise the contributions, some still are unpaid and our financial means are reduced seriously. The work of the ECCE is essentially on a voluntary basis, but it requires a minimum of support. On that item too, I appeal: **we need you!**

Béatrice Cussac de Verteuil, President ECCE

Hereunder the same article in original - french language

Nous avons besoin de vous !

C'est aux parents que je souhaite m'adresser en premier lieu aujourd'hui, et mon message est simple : nous avons besoin de vous. Et ceci à plus d'un titre.

Besoin de connaître... vos besoins d'abord. Qu'attendez-vous de l'ECCE, en quoi notre organisation peut-elle vous aider plus concrètement que par son rôle de défense de la pédagogie curative et de la sociothérapie au niveau européen ? Avez-vous des attentes en termes de connaissance de cette pédagogie et des notions qui la fondent, d'informations plus larges sur nos partenaires, d'aide à la constitution ou à l'animation de votre association de parents ? Parent moi-même, je suis touchée de voir à quel point les professionnels sont désireux de nous aider, au-delà du travail qu'ils effectuent au quotidien avec nos enfants. Mais comment faire ? Quel type de ponts voulons-nous ? Entre parents ? Entre parents et professionnels ? Entre nous et nos enfants ? A l'heure où nous nous penchons sur le thème « Bâtir des ponts », que nous débattons lors de notre prochaine assemblée générale, il est important de recueillir vos attentes pour nourrir nos échanges et nos projets.

Besoin de votre engagement aussi. Maman moi-même, je sais à quel point il est difficile de mener de front une vie professionnelle, personnelle, familiale, de parent d'enfant handicapé, associative... Et pourtant, si nous voulons que l'ECCE soit représentative, il est nécessaire qu'elle porte la voix des professionnels, des personnes handicapés et de leurs parents. Alors, oui, nous avons besoin d'être soutenus par des associations de parents et, mieux encore, par des parents qui s'impliquent aux côtés ou au sein du conseil d'administration.

Enfin, et c'est à tous que je m'adresse, nous avons besoin de votre soutien financier. Nous en parlerons lors de notre assemblée générale mais le constat est clair : nous n'avons pas augmenté les cotisations, certaines demeurent impayées et nos moyens financiers se réduisent sérieusement. Le travail effectué par l'ECCE est essentiellement bénévole, mais il requiert un minimum de support. Alors, sur ce plan-là aussi, je lance un appel : nous avons besoin de vous !

Béatrice Cussac de Verteuil, President ECCE

2. ECCE and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

*Bernard Heldt **

In 2008 ECCE (the European Co-operation in Anthroposophical Curative Education and Social Therapy) organized a congress in The Hague, Netherlands, for 700 persons with disabilities under the theme "Living in the Encounter." Immediately following, high school students who helped implement the Congress were asked to what extent their views had changed with regard to persons with an intellectual disability. "We had no view at all!" was the answer. "We never meet these people, but now we know we have gotten to know them!"

In 2016 it is exactly ten years ago that on 13 December 2006 the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN-CRPD) was adopted. It went into effect 3 May 2008 after - in accordance with the Convention - 20 states had ratified it. The German Bundestag ratified it in 2009 and the European Parliament finally in 2010. This treaty is no longer just about the elimination of the consequences of disabilities but rather about a way of living together: inclusion. Society is changing in such a way that all people can, with equal rights, find their place in education, work, health care, security, etc. Such a cultural change requires perseverance, patience, and allies to work together in the interest of people with disabilities toward implementing an inclusive society.

ECCE has the task to recognize the interests and needs of people with disabilities at the European level from the perspective of anthroposophical curative education and social therapy and to promote this in the European Union. ECCE was founded in 1992 for this purpose at the initiative of the International Council for Curative Education and Social Therapy in Dornach, Switzerland, which in turn coordinates the worldwide anthroposophical curative-education movement. At the European level ECCE has since been working closely with other European NGOs (interest groups and service providers). ECCE is a co-founder and member of the European Disability Forum (EDF), it cooperates with Inclusion Europe (IE), which in turn is an associate member of ECCE, and with the European Association of Service Providers for Persons

with Disabilities (EASPD). Here ECCE is part of the "Policy Impact Group" through which on the European level politically active lobbying is done on behalf of people with disabilities.

The volunteer board of ECCE represents anthroposophical curative education and social therapy in these organizations. This corresponds to about 150 working days per year. The board members reflect on their impressions and plan actions. Thus, for example, a contribution to the shadow report of the EASPD for the periodic report of the European Union on the implementation of the UN-CRPD was developed. This addresses the five key issues: ethics; people with complex needs; living independently and being included in the community; work and cultural activities as a way to self-realization; inclusive (vocational) education.

How do we build up an inclusive society? Inclusion is a word that sounds good. The reality is, however, that a rather profound cultural change must take place in society so that inclusion can actually be achieved. This is possible only in small steps that must be sustainable and purposeful. The mind-set has

to change. What matters is giving people with disabilities a face and a voice. For this, encounter is the best means. It starts by focusing on what is really necessary, with inclusive education and inclusive training. And another way of thinking is necessary: not thinking in terms of costs but rather of investments in people. It is also necessary to create a framework of ethical points of departure and ethical values. It is our move!

** The author is Vice President of ECCE*

This article has been published in 'Punkt und Kreis, Zeitschrift für anthroposophische Heilpädagogik, individuelle Entwicklung und Sozialkunst', nr. 43, Eastern 2016 - translation from German by Eduard van der Maas.

Hereafter *the same article in german language*

ECCE und die Behindertenrechtskonvention

*Bernard Heldt **

2008 organisierte die European Co-operation in Anthroposophical Curative Education and Social Therapy (ECCE) in Den Haag/Niederlande einen Kongress für 700 Menschen mit Behinderungen: «In der Begegnung leben». Im Anschluss daran wurden OberschülerInnen befragt, die bei der Durchführung des Kongresses halfen, inwiefern sich ihre Sicht auf Menschen mit einer geistigen Behinderung geändert habe. «Wir hatten gar keine Sicht!» war die Antwort, «Wir begegnen diesen Menschen doch niemals; jetzt erst haben wir eine Sicht bekommen!»

2016 ist es nun genau 10 Jahre her, dass am 13. Dezember 2006 in den Vereinten Nationen die UN-Behindertenrechtskonvention (UN-BRK) verabschiedet wurde. Sie ist am 3. Mai 2008 in Kraft getreten, nachdem - gemäß der Konvention - 20 Staaten das Übereinkommen ratifiziert hatten. Der Deutsche Bundestag ratifizierte es 2009 und das EU-Parlament schließlich 2010. In diesem Vertragswerk geht es bereits nicht mehr nur um die Beseitigung der Folgen einer Behinderung, sondern um eine Form des Zusammenlebens: Inklusion. Die Gesellschaft verändert sich so, dass alle Menschen gleichberechtigt ihren Platz in Ausbildung, Arbeit, Gesundheitsversorgung, Sicherheit etc. finden können. Für einen solchen Kulturwandel braucht man Ausdauer, Geduld und Verbündete, um gemeinsam, im Interesse der Menschen mit Behinderungen, an der Umsetzung einer inklusiven Gesellschaft zu arbeiten.

Die ECCE hat die Aufgabe, aus der Perspektive der anthroposophisch orientierten Heilpädagogik und Sozialtherapie heraus, Interessen und Bedürfnisse von Menschen mit Behinderungen auf europäischer Ebene wahrzunehmen und sich in der Europäischen Union dafür einzusetzen. Dafür wurde die ECCE 1992 auf Initiative der Internationalen Konferenz für Heilpädagogik und Sozialtherapie in Dornach/Schweiz gegründet, die ihrerseits weltweit die anthroposophisch orientierte heilpädagogische Bewegung koordiniert. Auf europäischer Ebene arbeitet die ECCE seither intensiv mit anderen europäischen Nichtregierungsorganisationen (Interessenverbänden und Dienstleistern) zusammen. Die ECCE ist Mitglied im European Disability Forum (EDF), dessen Mitbegründerin sie ist, sie kooperiert mit Inclusion Europe (IE), das wiederum assoziiertes Mitglied der ECCE ist, sowie der European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities (EASPD). Dort ist die ECCE Teil der „Policy Impact Group“, über die auf europäischer Ebene politisch aktiv für Menschen mit Behinderungen Lobbyarbeit geleistet wird.

Der ehrenamtliche Vorstand der ECCE vertritt die anthroposophische Heilpädagogik und Sozialtherapie in diesen Organisationen. Dies entspricht ca. 150 Arbeitstagen pro Jahr. Die Vorstandsmitglieder reflektieren ihre Eindrücke und planen Aktionen. So ist bspw. ein Beitrag für den Schattenbericht der EASPD zu dem Staatenbericht der Europäischen Union zur Umsetzung der UN-BRK entstanden. Dieser behandelt die fünf wichtigsten Fragen: Ethik - Personen mit komplexem Hilfebedarf - Unabhängige Lebensführung und Einbeziehung in die Gemeinschaft - Arbeiten und kulturelle Aktivitäten als ein Weg zur Selbstverwirklichung - inklusive (Berufs-)Bildung.

Wie bauen wir eine inklusive Gesellschaft auf? Inklusion ist ein Wort, das gut klingt. Die Realität ist allerdings, dass ein Kulturwandel in der Gesellschaft stattfinden muss, damit Inklusion tatsächlich verwirklicht werden kann. Das ist nur in kleinen Schritten, die nachhaltig und zielgerichtet sein müssen, möglich. Auch die Mentalität muss sich ändern. Es geht darum, Personen mit Behinderungen ein Gesicht und eine Stimme zu geben. Begegnung ist das beste Mittel. Es beginnt mit der Konzentration auf das, was wirklich notwendig ist, mit inklusiver Erziehung und inklusivem Unterricht. Und ein anderes Denken ist notwendig, nicht in Termini von Kosten, sondern von Investitionen in den Menschen. Also ein Gerüst von ethischen Ausgangspunkten und Werten zu schaffen. Wir sind dran!

Der Autor ist Vizepräsident der ECCE – erschienen in Punkt und Kreis, Zeitschrift für anthroposophische Heilpädagogik, individuelle Entwicklung und Sozialkunst', Nr. 43, Ostern 2016

3. Erasmus+ program

The Erasmus+ program aims to support actions in the fields of Education, Training, Youth and Sport for the period 2014-2020.

Please go for the program guide 2016 to: <http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/>

What does it support?

Erasmus + provides grants for a wide range of actions and activities in the fields of **education, training, youth and sport**. The program gives opportunities to students, trainees, staff and volunteers to spend a period abroad to increase their skills and employability. It supports organisations to work in transnational partnership and to share innovative practices in the fields of education, training and youth. The new **Sport** action will support grassroots projects and cross-border challenges such as combating match-fixing, doping, violence and racism.

How is it managed?

The European Commission, DG Education and Culture, is in charge of the policies related to the fields of Education, Training and Youth. For more information about the E+ program, to read policy documents and an overview of the opportunities offered, please visit the Erasmus+ website, see above.

The actions of the Erasmus + program are divided into **decentralised actions** and **centralised actions**.

- The decentralised actions are managed in each program country by **National Agencies** that are appointed by their national authorities.
- The centralised actions are managed at a European level by the **Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA)** located in Brussels. **EACEA** is in charge of the **complete life-cycle management of projects**, from the promotion of the program, the analysis of the grant requests, the on-the-spot monitoring of projects, up to the dissemination of the projects' and program's results. [More about EACEA](#).

How to apply?

The application process for the centralised actions is initiated in one of the following ways:

- Certain **centralised actions** are included in the **General Call for proposals** and the details of these actions are outlined in the **Erasmus + Programme Guide**.
- **Specific Calls for proposals** are published on this website.
- **Restricted Calls for proposals** are relevant only to bodies nominated by the national authorities in E+ program countries to undertake specific work (studies, management of strategic initiatives etc).
- **Calls for tender** are published when services are required to provide a limited number of highly specific services.

How to be kept up to date?

Documents and information related to E+ will be uploaded when becoming available. In order to be up to date, [please sign up for the RSS](#).

What is it about?

EACEA is currently preparing the information relating to the centralized actions of the Erasmus+ Program.

EQUITY AND INCLUSION

The Erasmus+ Program aims at promoting equity and inclusion by facilitating the access to learners with disadvantaged backgrounds and fewer opportunities compared to their peers. These persons have a disadvantage because of personal difficulties or obstacles that limit or prevent them from taking part in transnational projects. The obstacles or difficulties these persons may face are categorised: disabilities; educational difficulties; cultural differences: immigrants or refugees or their descendants; health problems; social obstacles; geographical obstacles. In the field of youth, an Inclusion and Diversity Strategy has been designed as a common framework to support the participation and inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities in Erasmus+. The Strategy is available on the website of the European Commission.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE ERASMUS+ PROGRAM?

Individuals - students, trainees, apprentices, pupils, adult learners, young people, volunteers, professors, teachers, trainers, youth workers, professionals of organisations active in the fields of education, training and youth constitute the main target population of the Program. However, the Program reaches these individuals through organisations, institutions, bodies or groups that organise such activities.

PARTICIPANTS

As a general rule, participants in Erasmus+ projects must be established in a Program Country. Some Actions, notably in the fields of higher education and youth, are also open to participants from Partner Countries. The specific conditions for participating in an Erasmus+ project depend on the type of Action concerned.

PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS

Erasmus+ projects are submitted and managed by participating organisations representing the participants. If a project is selected, the applicant participating organisation becomes a beneficiary of an Erasmus+ grant. Beneficiaries sign a grant agreement or receive a grant decision which entitles them to receive financial support for the realisation of their project (grant agreements are not offered to individual participants). Some Actions of the Program are also open to informal groups of young people. The specific conditions for participating in an Erasmus+ project depend on the type of Action supported by the Program. In general terms, the Program is open to any organisation active in the fields of education, training, youth or sport. Several Actions are also open to the participation of other players in the labour market. For more details, please consult Part B and Annex I of the Guide 2016.

Bernard Heldt

4. ECCE General Meeting 2016 in Norway, May 19th – 22nd, 2016 – “Building bridges”

The General Meeting of ECCE will be held partly in Camphill village Jøssåsen Landsby, Trøndelag, which is the area around Trondheim, at the west coast in the middle of Norway, surrounded by beautiful nature.

The theme of the **General Meeting** will be:

Building bridges and we will pay attention to **50 years Camphill in Norway**.



We will meet the parents from the Camphill-places in Trøndelag and visit different Camphill places up to Vallersund Gård, in the North.

Another topic in the next General Meeting will be the **Transition ECCE to Belgium**

Introduction

March 26th 1992 ECCE has been founded in the Netherlands, on request of the Council for Curative Education and Social Therapy (Dornach, CH). The Association for Curative Education and Social Therapy (Heilpädagogisch Verbond) in the Netherlands had a good opportunity to host the office, and the secretary general of the Heilpädagogisch Verbond did have the interest and opportunities and to build up ECCE. So the office was located in the Netherlands, where the treasurer, secretary and secretary general had been for more than 20 years.

After a couple of years ECCE co-operated with other European NGO's to represent the interests of persons with (learning) disabilities. Therefore ECCE was co-founder of the European Disability Forum (EDF, 1997), an NGO in which representatives of National Disability Councils of the European member states and national NGO's in the field of disabilities meet and discuss European policy in order to give advises.

ECCE has become a full member since then. For the history of ECCE, see 'ECCE 1992 – 2012 Objectives and Results' on the website www.ecce.eu .

All NGO's with which ECCE co-operates (Inclusion Europe, EASPD) are founded in Belgium. In 2002 Belgian law did adapt to facilitate the legal background of EU directed NGO's.

Actual situation

The office of ECCE moved in 2013 to Vienna, because the situation in the Netherlands did change. Since 2014 the Belgian representative is the treasurer, a German representative is the secretary and the former secretary general (Dutch) is vice-president from 2014. There is no reason to keep ECCE in the Netherlands any more.

In Belgium the auditor which controls the finances of ECCE is cheaper than in the Netherlands. This small circumstance is the immediate cause for the Committee of ECCE to propose the members to remove ECCE to Belgium like the other European NGO's. The actual statutes need not to be changed.

In the upcoming General Meeting in Norway the members will discuss this proposal.

We are looking forward to seeing you soon – have a good trip !

