

The logo for ECCE Link features the acronym 'ECCE' in a stylized, blue, outlined font, followed by the word 'Link' in a solid blue, sans-serif font.

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1. **International Day of Persons with Disabilities** (December 3) is an international observance promoted by the United Nations since 1992. The observance of the Day aims to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities. It also seeks to increase awareness of gains to be derived from the integration of persons with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life. Each year the day focuses on a different issue.

The theme for 2017 is “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient society for all”.



2. **International Day of Persons with Disabilities (December 3rd)**
How to build bridges to an inclusive society? – 3 Questions
Bernard Heldt

December 3rd is the International Day of persons with disabilities. December 4th we have other important things to pay attention to. But our society is in progress to put our shoulders under the goal of an inclusive society! We have to persevere!

Let us make a step backwards in time - 93 years ago, in 1924. Dr. Rudolf Steiner has given lectures about how to deal with disabled children, who are persons with an intact individuality just as we all are. He gave the task to society to give those children the place they earn, just like all of us. In principle, so Rudolf Steiner stated, there is no difference between them and us, be it in our physical, etheric or astral body – but not in our individuality, our “I”. We all have our own task to find our own place and contribute to society. That way of thinking was its time very, very much ahead.

During the celebration of the 25th anniversary of ECCE, May 18-21 this year, prof. Dr. Peter Selg of the Ita Wegman Institute for anthroposophic basic research in Arlesheim (CH) has described how the way of thinking in society about disabled persons was in those days, 93 years ago. So it was really necessary at that time to found organizations where those children could get the right sup-

port to be able to be included in the small communities those institutions were. Nowadays European NGO's are injecting energy to make the idea true, that persons with a disability get the possibility to contribute to society by learning and working at their level, just like us.

In Curative Education and Social Therapy this way of thinking exists already 93 years, look at the workshops and ateliers, which have been developed since then. So the idea of inclusion started already 93 years ago! And now in 2017 at last this concept has become law in the European countries. After 10 years (2017) 195 countries ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). But ratification of the UNCRPD is not enough – citizens have to accept innerly the intention of inclusion and to raise awareness of the fact that any human being should be able to find her or his place in society, without being left alone; how can we attain that goal?

In 2015 ECCE launched the project Building Bridges, drawn up by Thomas Kraus, with the goal to strengthen partnerships between anthroposophical organisations in Europe.

ECCE works for the improvement of the situation of persons in need of special care and supports associations of parents and anthroposophical institutions in Europe. Being aware of the actual changes, it is its task to face these challenges and support finding solutions. Therefore ECCE started a campaign among all members to create broader mutual support within our European network. We see mutual exchange and support as a crucial action to face the social challenges of our time.

In the General Meeting of May 2016, Norway, Bart Vanmechelen and Bernard Heldt stated as one possible objective of Building Bridges: 'The core of curative education and social therapy is the inner attitude of companions and co-workers; morality, giving meaning. Support for being a human; life design broadly interpreted'. This is of course of value for the whole society, all people in society have to get accustomed to the idea persons with a disability should have the same possibilities as everyone to find their proper place in society!

So: how can we build bridges to an inclusive society?

This is really a culture change. Not only to admit persons with a learning disability in society, which is happening already, but to open the hearts and minds of all persons in society to accept them – that is what inclusions means! Inclusion is important for the whole of society, not only for persons with a disability. It is a developmental goal; it needs an inner change for all of us, but how?

Such a culture change takes time and needs attention and perseverance. ECCE intends to notice real progress in 2024, when we may celebrate 100 years of the Curative Education course! Just at December 3rd – the International Day of persons with disabilities – it will be the contribution of ECCE to work at this process.

So 3 questions for you:

- Institutions must be able to reorganize from rather isolated centres to organizations which support and coach persons with a disability, living in nowadays society. What can ECCE and its members do to support this process?
- "Improve the world and start with yourself" – how can we support each other to effect radiation of this culture change to the surrounding world?
- What support do you need for this perseverating task, and by whom?

We will be glad to receive your answers and ideas before February 1st 2018, so we can publish a summary of your answers in the next LINK.



3. ECCE transmission to Belgium

Since most of the European organizations are based in Brussels and have their official office in Belgium, the members decided to bring ECCE under the Belgian law. This procedure and the registration has been finished recently.

The legal address is: **Asselkouter 34, 9820 Merelbeke, Belgium**

You can find these data via Google under 'KBO', PUBLIC SEARCH' and then our 'ondernemingsnummer' 0677762655

The **new ECCE bank account in Belgium** (for transmission of your next membership fee) is:
Triodos Bank, Steendam 8, 9000 Gent, Belgium

IBAN = **BE26 5230808546 29**

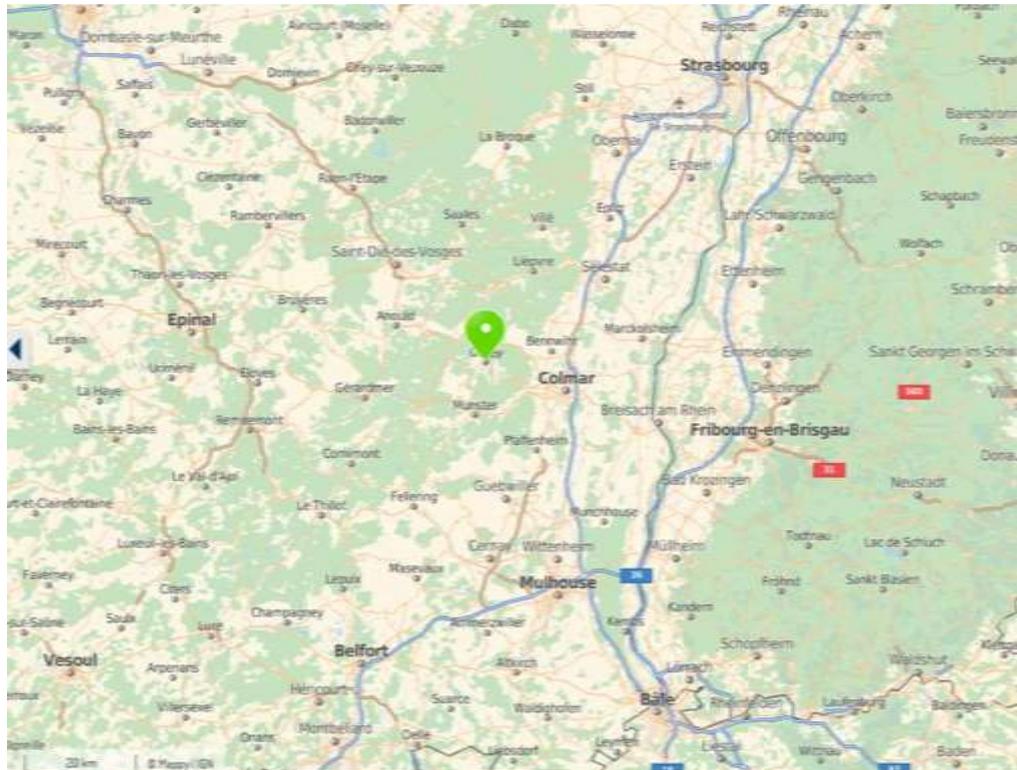
BIC-code = **TRIOBEBB**

Please note that the **office address remains unchanged**:
Renate Chwatal, Hasenöhlstrasse 12, 1100 Vienna, Austria.



4. Next ECCE General Meeting 2018 in France

The next ECCE General Meeting will be held in France, **Orbey** (near Colmar), **May 10th – 13th, 2018**



The gathering will start on **Thursday, May 10th, 6 pm**.

On **Friday, May 11th**, a common excursion day to Colmar is foreseen. One of the highlights of the city is the Musée d'Unterlinden, with the Isenheimer Altar, where you can admire the history and art of the region.

On **Saturday May 12th** an inclusive meeting with residents, parents/relatives and ECCE will be held.

On **Sunday morning, May 13th**, the organizational part of the ECCE General Meeting will take place.



A more extended programme will be available in due time.

If you have some more questions about this meeting, please do not hesitate to contact us.

For organizational reasons it is important to have your announcement of participation on this next General Meeting as soon as possible, latest until February 15th, 2018 to renate.chwatal@gmx.at.

Renate Chwatal, on behalf of the ECCE Committee



5. Activities in Spain/Tenerife

ACTIVA

Associação Distrital de Desporto, Lazer e Cultura para pessoas com deficiência do Distrito da Guarda (Portugal) - [District Association of Sport, Leisure and Culture for people with disabilities from the district of Guarda (Portugal)]

ACTIVA was born of the association between Guarda district institutions that work with this population and ASTA - Associação Socioterapeutica de Almeida was the main driver of this movement.

The idea emerged in 2010 when the need to unite the initiatives at a district level was realized in a planned and organized way.

It currently counts with the participation of 10 similar institutions and a very diversified annual program of activities, designed and prepared for the physical and intellectual capacities of the participants, with sports, recreation and cultural events such as: fishing, aquatic activity, equestrian activity, athletics, integrated soccer, basketball, yoga, hiking, dances, karate, skiing, canoeing, handball, among others.

The activities program is organized and approved in a general meeting at the end of each year.

Each institution proposes to organize one or two events throughout the year, depending on their availability of physical and economic resources. The results of this movement are being widely recognized by the local community, institutions and the participating athletes themselves.

In addition to the added value for direct players (athletes), contributing to their social and human integration, institutional ties, management bodies and technical staff have also been strengthened.

Translated by: JORGE PIRES-ASTA

Hereunder the same article in original - Spanish language

ACTIVA

Associação Distrital de Desporto, Lazer e Cultura para Pessoas com Deficiência da Guarda (Portugal)

A ACTIVA (Associação Distrital de Desporto, lazer e cultura para pessoas com deficiência da Guarda - Portugal) nasceu da associação entre as instituições do distrito da Guarda que trabalham com esta população e a ASTA – Associação Socioterapeutica de Almeida foi a principal impulsionadora deste movimento.

A ideia surgiu em 2010 quando se percebeu a necessidade de união das iniciativas a nível distrital, de forma planeada e organizada.

Atualmente conta com a participação de 10 instituições congéneres e um programa anual de atividades bastante diversificado, pensado e preparado para as capacidades físicas e intelectuais dos participantes, com eventos desportivos, de lazer e cultura tais como: pesca, atividade aquática, atividade equestre, atletismo, futebol integrado, basquetebol, yoga, caminhadas, danças, karaté, ski, canoagem, andebol, entre outros.

O programa de atividades é organizado e aprovado em reunião geral no final de cada ano. Cada instituição propõe organizar um ou dois eventos ao longo do ano, consoante a sua disponibilidade de recursos físicos e económicos.

Os resultados deste movimento estão a ser amplamente reconhecidos pela comunidade local, instituições e os próprios atletas participantes. Além da mais valia para os intervenientes diretos (atletas), contribuindo para a sua integração social e humana, também os laços institucionais, corpos gerentes e quadros técnicos, saíram amplamente fortalecidos.

JORGE PIRES-ASTA

In the e-mail you will find an enclosure with more interesting articles from Spain / Tenerife in Spanish language.



6. 7th and last European Congress for Persons with Disabilities

"Living in the Encounter" Belgrade, Serbia will host it 31 May - 3 June 2018,
" MAN IS AN ANGEL TO MAN"



Almost twenty years have gone by since the first congress "Living in the Encounter" took place in Berlin, way back in 1998. The impulse of these congresses brought us all over Europe: from major cities such as Berlin, Dornach, Prague, The Hague, Vienna, and Brussels, all the way to the Balkans! For one last time, the 7th congress will take place in Belgrade. Belgrade is a lively city and very easy to be reached. There is a reason why we are headed to Serbia for our 20th anniversary. Belgrade, the "White City", also experienced painful times in recent past and its wounds are still visible.

In contrast, "Living in the Encounter" is a guideline to how peace and cooperation can be achieved within and throughout Europe. Here persons with disabilities are taking proactive social roles and are no longer only on the receiving end of support.

Up to 600 participants will have the last opportunity to experience this unique congress. Together, we will learn about the country with an opulent history and, of course, about its people. The congress and lodging are both taking place in a fine 4 star hotel "Crowne Plaza". The overall cost of participation is 360 € in total. The fee covers all parts of the program, including accommodation in a fine 4 star hotel, food consumption, grand opening ceremony and "Balkan party" attendance, as well as ground transportation to all planned locations and excursions. English, German and Serbian are the official languages of the congress.

The only way to ensure your place at the congress is to register online as soon as possible. Please visit therefore www.zivetiususretu.com. Do not miss this last opportunity – come to Serbia! Belgrade is looking forward to welcoming you!

Thomas Kraus, Berlin

Initiator www.socialartist.events

Herzlich willkommen zum

7. und letzten Europäischen Kongress für Menschen mit Behinderungen

"In der Begegnung leben" – „DER MENSCH IST DES MENSCHEN ENGEL“

31.05. - 03.06.18 in Belgrad / Serbien.



Dies wird die letzte Möglichkeit sein diesen einzigartigen Kongress zu erleben.

1998 startete der erste Kongress "In der Begegnung leben" in Berlin und wurde bald zu einer weltweiten Bewegung für Menschen mit Behinderungen. Kongresse werden in zahlreichen Regionen durchgeführt und stärken alle beteiligten Menschen. Der Kongress in Belgrad wird der siebte und letzte in dieser Reihe sein. Deshalb ist es für rund 600 Teilnehmer die letzte Gelegenheit, diesen besonderen Kongress noch einmal zu erleben.

Belgrad – Europas Binnenjuwel- besser bekannt unter dem Namen „Die weiße Stadt“, erlebte in jüngster Vergangenheit schmerzhafteste Zeiten. Die Wunden sind bis heute sichtbar. Wie in Europa hingegen Frieden und Zusammenarbeit erreicht werden können zeigt "In der Begegnung leben". Hier sind Menschen mit Behinderungen Aktivisten und nicht nur Hilfsempfänger.

Das 4* Crowne Plaza Hotel ist Übernachtungs- und Kongressort für alle 600 Teilnehmer, die Teilnahmegebühr beträgt 360 € pro Person.

Die **Anmeldung** www.zivetiususretu.com hat begonnen und die Plätze sind begrenzt.

Lassen Sie uns 20 Jahre "In der Begegnung leben" gemeinsam auf dem Balkan feiern.

Belgrad freut sich auf Sie!

Thomas Kraus, Berlin

Initiator www.socialartist.events

8. Request from Dornach

Dear Members,

Here under you find a letter from Eric Fleming regarding a book project on artistic projects and play processes that benefit the wellbeing of individuals and communities. Eric is looking for any leads on projects, possible authors and contributors. Please forward this to anyone in your network who might be an appropriate contact. Get in touch with Eric directly if you have any input or questions. Thank you!

Warmly,

Jan C. Göschel

Member of the Leadership Team

Konferenz für Heilpädagogik und Sozialtherapie

Curative Education and Social Therapy Council

A request for information about or contact with artistic Social Therapy projects outside the UK

I am writing in regard to a book I will be contributing to on the theme of 'Play' and am interested in making contact with individuals or groups involved in artistic projects and Social Therapy. In a previous book: *Play in Healthcare for Adults: Using play to promote health and wellbeing across the adult lifespan* ed A. Tonkin and J. Whitaker, Routledge 2016 I contributed a chapter 'Play and Social Therapy'.

In that piece of writing I explored the work I am involved with in running the glass studio at Orwell Arts, Garvald Edinburgh, an organisation influenced by Rudolf Steiner. I looked at how play manifests in group discussion, creating artistic glass and participation in festival celebrations. I reflected upon J. C. F. von Schiller's notion of 'play drive' and his influence upon J. W. von Goethe in creating his fairy tale 'The Green Snake and the Beautiful Lilly', an important example of the 'play of imagination'.

The follow-up book to the one mentioned above will be *Play and Playfulness for Public Health and Wellbeing: The Playful Pursuit of Public Health*. The editors would like contributors such as me to reference international perspectives and cross cultural approaches.

I am keen to make links with any artistic projects or activities that I may learn about and reference as examples of processes or interactive activities employing play which benefit the health of communities, people and place. I am particularly interested in examples of active participation in both the creation and appreciation of public and environmental art projects.

Kind regards,

Eric Fleming

Glass Studio Leader, Garvald Edinburgh

Email: EricFleming@GarvaldEdinburgh.org.uk or eric-fleming22@hotmail.co.uk

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The Committee of ECCE wishes to all of you a Merry and peaceful Christmas time and a Prosperous year 2018

