

ECCE Link

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1. Eastern – an appeal to morality and inner courage – The Isenheim Altarpiece

In anthroposophical care we can never avoid making the handicap meaningful in someone's existence. Looking for the qualities of people, whatever disability they may have, you make them human. As adults, these qualities are often expressed in their work. You also see that in social therapy people with a development problem become healthy in their work.

A motto in anthroposophical care is 'attention to detail'. That means that every small act that is performed with love and consciousness has its effect. If we can draw on and handle that ability, we act out of morality; consciously focused will.

Rudolf Steiner says: "Every individual person must become a source of morality himself". And then: "the morality of the future will have to find its foundation in the moral love that is released from the deepest layers of the human soul. The social actions of the future must be immersed in confidence. For if one individual person wants to meet the other in a moral sense, above all this atmosphere of trust will be necessary. Man could not see the world as permeated by morality, if the mystery of Golgotha had not taken place." The Christ impulse can only be realized when people do this of their own free will!

This relates among other things to dealing with disabled persons. Our morality determines the direction of our actions. You are your own source of morality; you determine the direction of your actions yourself. This requires authenticity, it is a direction of will and that requires courage, inner courage, Steiner calls it 'courage of soul', which people can acquire in these times.

What matters is, "..... that we connect with courage with the mystery of Golgotha, with the impulse that Christ Jesus implants in the development of the earth."

Courage is a very important aspect of the inner attitude of the curative educator and social therapist. You intervene in the life of another person. This requires great care, but also courage based on morality. By influencing the life of the other you influence his karma. You constantly create possibilities that would otherwise not be awakened. You constantly make big and small decisions for the other person. Steiner says: "The very first condition if we want to do something in such an area is inner courage. And the courage awakens only when we always have the grandeur of the matter in mind: you do something the gods would do in the life between death and next birth."



Bernard Heldt

part of the Isenheim Altarpiece by Matthias Grünewald

2. ECCE General Meeting 2018 in France

The next ECCE General Meeting will be held in France, **May 10th (6pm) – 13th (12am), 2018**

In the forthcoming General Meeting ECCE will continue to “build bridges” by connecting **nature, culture and encounter**.

Nature

the meeting place “**Domaine de Beubois**”, 68370 Orbey



In the foreground of the picture you see the “**guest house**”, with apartments, in which the **ECCE members are accommodated together** (2-3 members will share an apartment with separate sleeping rooms and a small kitchen).

Behind, on the small hill, one sees the architecturally appealing “**Auberge**”, where we will take some of our meals.

At the far back you can see the **bakery**, where people work with assistance.

In the immediate **surrounding area** are the places “Le Sources” (home for young people), “Les Allagouttes” (home, school and workshop for children and young people) and “Platform” (inklusive workshop), who the ECCE members will visit on Friday morning.

Culture

Colmar history and art of the region (Friday)



After lunch in a typical restaurant we take a guided tour through the **Musé d’Unterlinden**, where Stephan Reiter, a Waldorf teacher, will give us more information about the “Isenheim Altarpiece” (see article above) and other sights.

residents, parents/relatives, co-workers, ECCE members

are invited to participate on the inclusive meeting with the theme “the meaning of work”.

In Curative Education and Social Therapy, the participation in different tasks of daily life, for example in craft workshops, household and environmental care, is one of the essential factors in allowing people in need of special care to play an active role in the community and in society.

Besides personal experiences, videos about workshops, presentations (ECCE, The Council for Curative Education and Social Therapy, Goethanum /Dornach), the Swiss theatre group ‘La Branche’ will present “Libres et Egaux” (Free and Equal) a play on the theme of the EU Convention.

Building bridges

Reports from the countries (Thursday/Sunday)

Upon request of the members at the last General Meeting there will be enough time for exchange between the members. Upon arrival, on Thursday evening and Sunday will be space for numerous reports from the countries. For your preparation ECCE will inform you about the exact topic in due time. The detailed programme and all relevant documents for the General meeting will be sent to the participants by e-mail.

Travel information

The next **airports to Colmar are Basel and Strasbourg**. From there you have trains to Colmar (a time table will be sent to the participants).

At **Colmar train station** there will be **3 shuttle buses to Orbey**.

Since a good communication is very important for the organization of this trip to France, please do not hesitate to contact us with any question. renate.chwatal@gmx.at.

Renate Chwatal, on behalf of the ECCE Committee



3. Activities in Spain/Tenerife (English translations below by Bernard Heldt)

“Diferentes miradas de una misma realidad”

En estas últimas décadas hemos podido comprobar diferentes avances a la hora de crear conciencia en relación con las personas portadoras de discapacidad:

1992- *Se declara el día 3 de diciembre “Día Internacional de las Personas portadoras de Discapacidad.*

2003- *Se declara “Año Internacional de la Discapacidad”*

2006- *Se aprueba en la ONU la “Convención sobre los Derechos de las personas portadoras de Discapacidad”.*

Sin duda, son estos, hitos importantes en el avance común hacia la Plena Inclusión de un sector de la población cuyo carácter es observado desde la perspectiva de la extrema vulnerabilidad.

Cada territorio, cada país, tiene su propia cultura, economía, aspectos legales y formas de entender el desarrollo social. Si bien, las intenciones son loables y los ideales mancomunados, las diferentes realidades que nos presenta la diversidad, nos invitan constantemente a no enfocar las posibles soluciones al problema de la inclusión desde la misma perspectiva. Múltiples son las acciones que se están poniendo constantemente en práctica, y podemos observar, si nos retrotraemos a la trayectoria vivida, como cada época afronta la situación desde un prisma diferente:

*Desde que se hiciesen visibles, allá por los años **1850** en adelante, las primeras acciones estuvieron encaminadas a la aniquilación, creando guetos en los que se les ofrecía una serie de servicios en régimen cerrado, instituciones concebidas para ofrecer cobijo caritativo a estos seres incapaces de seguir e insertarse en las bonanzas del progreso del que la humanidad tan orgullosa se sentía. Años después, vivimos con pasividad y tolerancia los hechos denigrantes que culminaron en las heridas abiertas durante sendas Guerras Mundiales que aún, hoy día, seguimos intentando atajar y curar. Tiempos en los que se les era negada incluso la posibilidad de tener acceso a la educación. Más adelante y hasta la mitad del siglo*

pasado **1950/60**, la perspectiva se sitúa en la idea de integración médico-educativa y también social, esto sí con el trasfondo de la normalización. Como contrapunto, la especialización y diversificación nos sitúan delante, en este inicio de milenio **"2000"**, de lo intrínsecamente humano que vive en cada individualidad; es tiempo de la inclusión, un nuevo paradigma que nos confronta con la necesidad de abordar las situaciones incapacitantes, de dependencia desde la perspectiva de humanidad colectiva, de respeto y aceptación de la individualidad. Hora es de aceptar y ayudar a trascender impedimentos, hora es de hacer visibles los talentos individuales con los que poder contribuir al desenvolvimiento y desarrollo común.

Muchos son los avances adquiridos, médico-educativos, socioculturales y también humanitarios. Herramientas básicas que permiten desenvolver las facultades necesarias para dar respuesta a la llamada de los destinos exigentes llenos de nobleza. Un espejo donde poderse mirar, donde poder encontrar respuestas a los desafíos de la época. En este tiempo donde la globalización nos invita a dar pasos firmes, se hace necesario pasar a la acción consciente, la visibilidad ya no es suficiente por sí sola, la mano tendida de las personas necesitadas de cuidados anímicos especiales debe ser cogida con la seriedad y el rigor que requieren los desafíos de la época. Ellos se prestan a recorrer el camino conjuntamente, con la esperanza puesta en un mundo mejor. Analicemos no tanto el ¿por qué? de las respuestas sociales que les ofrecemos, sino, más bien el ¿para qué? de cada una de las acciones que para ellos diseñamos. No tanto para ellos, sino, junto a ellos. Con ellos podremos encontrar un camino más firme por el que transitar esta época incierta, llena de desafíos.

La invitación queda hecha para compartir las diferentes experiencias que, desde nuestro hacer, en cada rincón de nuestro arco social, se vienen realizando. Necesitamos crear vínculos de pertenencia, compartir los ensayos que nuestro movimiento de Pedagogía Curativa y Terapia Social viene desarrollando en cada rincón, en cada lugar; con lo específico qué, cada comunidad y acción hacen de este movimiento un movimiento diverso y plural, y que pueda así irradiar, desde el interior, con el anhelo de humanización de lo mundano, de la curación en lo humano.

En las situaciones de gran dependencia, familias y profesionales se encuentran con la doble tarea de proteger la individualidad y generar ámbitos de actuación; defensa de la consecución de derechos, también corresponsabilidad con las obligaciones inherentes. La inclusión no será bien comprendida si se aborda solamente desde la perspectiva de consumir servicios sin duda necesarios, la plena inclusión nos ofrece la posibilidad de generar sinergias en las que las personas necesitadas de cuidados anímicos especiales puedan contribuir desde su ser, con su saber estar y saber hacer a crear cultura, **haciendo de las situaciones de gran dependencia un himno a la sana convivencia.**

Quisiera invitar a compartir en estas páginas, historias y experiencias, individuales y colectivas que sirviesen de estímulo y reflejo del hacer en cada rincón de nuestro ámbito asociativo ECCE. Cuáles son las vivencias y realidades cotidianas en las que nos vemos envueltos en las diferentes miradas de una misma realidad.

Fidel Ortega Dueñas

Director San Juan - Presidente de la Federación Hispano-Portuguesa de P.C. y Terapia Social

"Different views of the same reality" (English translation)

In these last decades we have been able to verify different advances when it comes to raising awareness in relation to people with disabilities:

1992- December 3 is declared "International Day of Persons with Disabilities".

2003- Declares "International Year of Disability"

2006- The "Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities" is approved at the UN.

Without doubt, these are important milestones in the common advance towards the Full Inclusion of a sector of the population whose character is observed from the perspective of extreme vulnerability.

Each territory, each country, has its own culture, economy, legal aspects and ways of understanding social development. Although, the intentions are praiseworthy and the ideals pooled, the different realities that diversity presents us, constantly invite us not to focus the possible solutions to the problem of inclusion from the same perspective. There are multiple actions that are constantly being put into practice, and we can observe, if we go back to the trajectory experienced, as each epoch faces the situation from a different prism:

Since they were made visible, back in the 1850s, the first actions were aimed at annihilation, creating ghettos in which they were offered a series of services in a closed regime, institutions designed to offer charitable shelter to these beings incapable of follow and insert in the bonanzas of progress that proud humanity felt. Years later, we lived with passivity and tolerance the degrading acts that culminated in the open wounds during World Wars that still, today, we continue to try to stop and heal. Times in which they were denied even the possibility of having access to education. Later on and until the middle of the last century 1950/60, the perspective is placed on the idea of medical-educational integration and also social,

this is against the background of normalization. As a counterpoint, specialization and diversification put us ahead, at the beginning of the 2000 "millennium", of the intrinsically human that lives in each individuality; It is time for inclusion, a new paradigm that confronts us with the need to address disabling situations, dependency from the perspective of collective humanity, respect and acceptance of individuality. Time is to accept and help transcend impediments, time is to make visible the individual talents with which to contribute to common development and flourishing.

Many are the acquired advances, medical-educational, socio-cultural and also humanitarian. Basic tools that allow to develop the necessary faculties to give answer to the call of the demanding destinations full of nobility. A mirror where you can look, where you can find answers to the challenges of the time. In this time where globalization invites us to take firm steps, it becomes necessary to move to conscious action, visibility is no longer sufficient by itself, the outstretched hand of people in need of special care must be taken seriously and the rigor that the challenges of the time require. They lend themselves to traveling the road together, hoping for a better world. Let's analyze not so much the why? of the social answers that we offer, but, rather, the why? of each of the actions that we design for them. Not so much for them, but, together with them. With them we can find a firmer path through which to travel this uncertain time, full of challenges.

The invitation is made to share the different experiences that, from our doing, in every corner of our social arc, have been carried out. We need to create bonds of belonging, to share the essays that our movement of curative education and social therapy is developing in each corner, in each place; with what specific, each community and action make this movement a diverse and plural movement, and that can thus radiate, from the inside, with the longing for humanization of the mundane, of healing in the human.

In situations of great dependence, families and professionals encounter the dual task of protecting individuality and generating areas of action; defense of the attainment of rights, also co-responsibility with the inherent obligations. Inclusion will not be well understood if it is approached only from the perspective of consuming services that are undoubtedly necessary, full inclusion offers us the possibility of generating synergies in which people in need of special psychic care can contribute from their being, with their knowledge of being and know how to create culture, making situations of great dependence a hymn to healthy living.

I would like to invite to share in these pages, stories and experiences, individual and collective that serve as a stimulus and reflection of doing in every corner of our ECCE associative field. What are the daily experiences and realities in which we are involved in the different views of the same reality.

☪ * ☪

III ENCONTRO HISPANO-PORTUGUES DE COMPANHEIROS

Los próximos 11,12,13 y 14 de junio 2018, se celebrará en la sede de la Asociación Socioterapéutica de Almeida, Portugal, el tercer encuentro, Congreso de personas necesitadas de cuidados anímicos especiales de la federación Hispano-Portuguesa.

Estos encuentros regionales se vienen desarrollando desde el año 2014, si bien iniciaron su andadura allá por los años 1998, 1999, 2000. Después de un tiempo de inactividad, la federación, con el deseo de poner en el centro de su actividad a las personas necesitadas de cuidados anímicos especiales retomó esta iniciativa que viene realizándose de forma bianual. En esta ocasión el tema que servirá de hilo conductor es el de "Los Cuatro Elementos".



Esta prevista la participación de unas 300 personas del ámbito de la federación y de instituciones amigas invitadas para esta ocasión. La interacción y promoción de la cultura del encuentro es objetivo general perseguido, en cuanto a los objetivos específicos se encuentran el trabajo artístico bajo el tema en un espacio rural y dentro de la propia naturaleza; el intercambio de conocimientos y culturas y la promoción de una exposición "LAND ART" con el resultado de los trabajos realizados durante el encuentro abierta al gran público.

Fidel Ortega Dueñas

Director San Juan - Presidente de la Federación Hispano-Portuguesa de P.C. y Terapia Social.

III HISPANO-PORTUGUESE MEETING OF COMPANIONS (English translation)

The next meeting, 11,12,13 and June 14, 2018, will be held at the headquarters of the Sociotherapeutic Association of Almeida, Portugal, the third meeting, Congress of people in need of special mental care of the Hispano-Portuguese Federation. These regional meetings have been developing since 2014, although they began their journey back in 1998, 1999, 2000. After a period of inactivity, the federation, with the desire to put people at the center of their activity In need of special psychic care, she took up this initiative that has been taking place every two years. On this occasion, the theme that will serve as the theme is "The Four Elements". The participation of some 300 people from the area of the federation and friendly institutions invited for this occasion is planned. The interaction and promotion of the culture of the encounter is a persecuted general objective, in terms of the specific objectives are the artistic work under the theme in a rural space and within the nature itself; the exchange of knowledge and cultures and the promotion of an exhibition "LAND ART" with the result of the work carried out during the meeting open to the general public.



4. "7th European Congress Living in the Encounter", Belgrade, Serbia



7th EUROPEAN CONGRESS FOR PERSONS WITH DISSABILITIES
LIVING IN THE ENCOUNTER
 31 May – 3 June 2018
BELGRADE, SERBIA

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CONGRESS IN HIGHLIGHTS

 workshops	 Balkan party	 4* hotel lodging
 cultural program	 excursions	 prominent speakers

Almost twenty years have gone by since the first congress "Living in the Encounter" took place. The impulse brought us all over Europe, and now, for the 7th and the last time, the congress will take place in Belgrade! This gathering will now take a new dimension: A MAN I SANGEL TO A MAN!
 Disability changes into ability, for oneself and for others.

Belgrade is a lively city and very easy to be reached. The congress is taking place in a very comfortable and upscale city hotel. More than 600 people will have the last opportunity to experience this unique congress. Together, we will learn about the country with its opulent history and, of course, about the people. The program will feature all different kinds of workshops, a lavish cultural program as well as the one-of-a-kind Balkan party. Do not miss this last opportunity – come to Serbia! Belgrade is looking forward to welcoming you!

– Thomas Kraus
 founder of the "Living in the Encounter" congresses

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