

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. ECCE General Meeting 2019

Dear ECCE members

For the next ECCE General Meeting we can tell you at the moment only that the theme has to do with 'how I become an includer and why do I exclude?'. More info about title, the exact date and place of the General Meeting 2019 have not been decided until now – the Committee will be happy to give you these information in the first half of January enabling you to organise your time table.

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2. EASPD Project

Ageing and Disabilities

Call for practices: share your experience in providing services for older persons with disabilities

EASPD and ECCE decided to co-operate in a project 'Ageing and Disability'. First goal is to make an inventory of experiences and good practices. Next goal might be a congress in 2020.

United Nations Disability,

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/disability-and-ageing.html>

Currently, it is estimated that more than 46 per cent of older persons – those aged 60 years and over—have disabilities and more than 250 million older people experience moderate to severe disability. The global trends in ageing populations and the higher risk of disability in older people are likely to lead to further increases in the population affected by disability. Furthermore, the higher disability rates among older persons, as a result of an accumulation of health risks across a lifespan of disease, injury, and chronic illness contributes to the higher disability rates among older people, urges countries to review and further explore the complementarities between the discourses on ageing and on disability.

With 46% of the older population having a disability and with persons with disabilities living longer, there is an increasing demand on support services. Persons with disabilities face various social and environmental barriers. As they age, there is an increased risk of further social exclusion, loss of independence and institutionalisation. **To ensure the full participation of older people with disabilities, it is essential to provide person-centred support services that address both age and disability-related needs.** However, challenges may arise as in health and social service systems, older people and people with disabilities are often seen as separate user groups.

Call for practices

EASPD and ECCE are sending out a call for practices to be presented at their work conference **“Ageing and Disability: Shaping the Agenda of Tomorrow”**. Service providers are kindly invited to share their experiences in developing and/or providing care and support services to older people with disabilities, be it persons with disabilities who are growing older or persons acquiring disabilities as they age.

We are looking for practices that can reflect challenges and opportunities of linking services for older people and services for persons with disabilities. This includes challenges and opportunities at different levels:

- policy level (e.g. legal frameworks and regulations, interaction with regulatory bodies, funding systems)
- Organisational level (e.g. management of services, workforce training)
- Individual level (e.g. needs and wishes of service users)

Selected applicants will be invited to present their cases at the work conference, on the **21st and 22nd of March 2019 in Brussels.**

Travel & subsistence costs of presenters will be covered by organisers.

Presentation Requirements

- The working language of the presentation is English.
- Prepare a presentation of 20 mins max. and send PowerPoint slides 1 week before the event.

You find the application form in the annex of this [LINK](#) if you would like to share your experiences.

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3. Sustainable Inclusion

To what extent is society with the inclusion of persons with disabilities?

From 2007 the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) has been adopted by enough UN-members to become an official convention, but still had to be adopted by the parliaments of the nations. Nowadays the UNCRPD has been passed by all European parliaments and the EU-parliament, so it has the power of law in Europe. But to what extent is society taking up persons with a disability?

Mutual adaptation of all citizens

If we are to include persons with a disability in a meaningful way, we will have to do it on their terms. We will have to give primary consideration to fundamental human values, if the Article 26 rights (Charter of Human Rights of the European Union) are to be honoured. They ask us to come up with a sensible, meaningful view of the relationship between man and society: a view based on the equality of all human beings, in which the quality of each person’s commitment finds full expression.

Each individual bears a potential for development, which he is willing to make available to society, be it they give the chance to others to develop themselves. It is essential that people be given the opportunity to contribute to life, to be asked to commit themselves to what they are good at or able to do, even though someone else may do things better. Inclusion is not the unilateral fitting-in of the marginalised into existing structures, but the consistent mutual adaptation of all human beings as citizens of a common society – sustainable Inclusion is a cultural change!

Sustainable Inclusion

Recognising that people with learning disabilities have the same inherent dignity, equality and inalienable rights as all people make us create a new concept of human relationships. This new concept – sustainable inclusion - starts with expanding and improving the quality of comprehensive early childhood care and education, especially for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children.

Sustainable Inclusion means an approach that will guarantee a successful and durable setting of education and life for children with learning disabilities. The decisive factor will be a change in the attitude of all citizens towards the respectful recognition and association with individuals with disabilities in a multiform and multicultural society. This is only possible if everyone in society is willing to do his bit. Children with disabilities can become adults with a happy life, if they are surrounded by people who are happy that they are there!

We cannot say that by implementing the UNCRPD, sustainable inclusion is ready. We also cannot say that the responsibility is by the institutions where persons with a disability often are housed, although those institutions have to be ready for an organisational change. But it is as well just a start of a cultural change in whole society, based on a change in the inner attitude of all persons by which people accept each other. It may take generations before this is actually realized.

Examples?

ECCE is interested in examples by which this cultural change is more or less visible, so that we can learn from each other.

Please send your examples to Renate Chwatal, renate.chwatal.ecce@gmx.at to be published in the next ECCE Link.

Bernard Heldt

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4. Ost-West Congress Wien 2022

The Austrian anthroposophic society has decided to organise an international congress in Vienna in 2022.

With this the impulse of the 2nd International Anthroposophical Congress "West - Eastern World Contrast" from 1922 will be taken up after one hundred years and will continue the hints made at that time by Rudolf Steiner under the title "East-West Vienna 2022" in the form of an international conference.

In this context, provisionally the entire **Konzerthaus in Vienna** is reserved for this event for the Whitsun holidays from **June 4 to 6, 2022**.

On this basis, all branches and working groups of the Anthroposophical Society are invited to join this unique event. One of these branches is the Curative Education and Social Therapy. In this regard ECCE is inviting all of you to join this special congress.

All interested parties who register their participation until July 2019 will show up their interest in this event and confirm it with a corresponding deposit of **100 € at Hermes Austria**. These deposits will empower us to fix the pre-reservation at the Konzerthaus in Vienna (which is a place for 2000 people).

Depending on the situation that has arisen until then, you will receive the deposit back in July 2019 or you can supplement the amount up to three months before the start of the event to the anticipated maximum full price, which will be **220 €**.

All further details will follow after activation of the homepage:
www.ost-west.wien directly via this access.

*"The Congress was called West - East Congress. This is the result of the conviction that today we are simply at that point in time in the civilization of the West in which an understanding of the entire cultural world of the earth must also come, especially from a spiritual background".
Rudolf Steiner on 18.6.1922 in Dornach from the report on the Congress of Vienna.*

5. New name of the Council

Anthroposophic Council for
Inclusive Social Development



Education
Wellbeing
Community



What does it mean ?

From October 8 to 12, 2018, the biannual international conference of the worldwide movement for anthroposophic curative education and social therapy took place at the Goetheanum in Dornach, Switzerland. About 650 people from around 40 different countries on all continents, including colleagues with and without support needs, gathered under the heading “Social Play Space: Making room for fulfilling biographies”. Woven through with artistic experiences and encounters, the conference was a true celebration of the diversity and vibrant energy of this work around the world. Lectures (by Jan Goeschel of Camphill Academy in USA and member of the Leadership Team of the Council, Dan McKanan of Harvard Divinity School, Gerald Häfner of the Social Science Section of the School of Spiritual Science, Ha Vinh Tho of Eurasia Foundation and formerly of Bhutan’s Gross National Happiness Center, and Joan Sleight of the Executive Council of the General Anthroposophical Society), workshops (many co-hosted by colleagues of different areas of expertise and ability), artistic activities and panorama presentations of inspiring projects and initiatives all engaged with the question: How do we co-create a culture and society in which every human being can find their destiny and unfold their biography?

For many years, the organization hosting this conference and serving as umbrella for this network of organizations, as well as giving space to this field of work within the School of Spiritual Science, has been known as the ‘Curative Education and Social Therapy Council’, or ‘Konferenz für Heilpädagogik und Sozialtherapie’. Though it is supported by its own legal body in form of a small Swiss nonprofit association, it has also been part of the School of Spiritual Science, as a working group with representation in IKAM, the coordination circle of the Medical Section.

As the work represented by the Council grew and diversified across the globe, with a strong interdisciplinary character and activities that may be variously weighted more towards the pedagogical, the social or the medical-therapeutic in meeting different needs in a great variety of contexts, the name ‘Konferenz für Heilpädagogik und Sozialtherapie’ – which does not translate well across languages, specific fields of work and professional contexts – was more and more experienced as needing to evolve. The Council’s Leadership Team made up of Jan Goeschel (USA), Sonja Zausch (Germany) and Bart Vanmechelen (Belgium), which took over the coordinating function in January 2017, initiated a search for a new name that could serve as an umbrella for this diversity while speaking to the core intent that brings this particular network of organizations together. In consultation with the circle of country delegates, the new name was developed: Anthroposophic Council for Inclusive Social Development.

A Council is a space where we come together as a worldwide movement, consult with each other, build a picture of the movement and develop initiative. The shared goal at the center is Inclusive Social Development: helping society evolve and shaping that process in ways that allow everyone to participate. In that goal, we have many colleagues in the world. What we can bring to the table for this work is Anthroposophy.

To the name, we added a new logo and a claim, consisting of three words. The logo shows the movement gesture of the Council – creating a dynamic breathing between center and periphery.

This makes worldwide collegueship possible. It allows us to sense and impulsate. The Council includes all who work in our field. It builds a heart organ for this movement and places it into the space of the School of Spiritual Science.

The three words – education, wellbeing, community – speak to the three main focus areas for our work: How do we make education and lifelong learning possible for all? How do we allow everyone to find health in dynamic balance? How do we build communities that make space for individual biographies? They also speak to the links with the three Sections of the School of Spiritual Science, whose concerns intersect in our field of work: The Medical Section, which brings together the professions concerned with health and wellbeing for all, has historically been the anchor for our movement in the School of Spiritual Science and continues to be a key partner. The Pedagogical Section, which is the primary forum for those who teach children and adolescents, has also been a close partner for many years, especially with the growing concerns about the developmental needs of all children and the rapid growth of inclusive models within the Waldorf movement around the world (albeit not yet in North America). The Social Science Section is the place where questions of community building and social, cultural and economic change live in a focused way. These questions have been at the center of the work of anthroposophic organizations in the disabilities field from the beginning, and many initiatives have seen themselves as labs for practical experiments in building threefold social organisms.

In placing the intrinsic interdisciplinarity of our work more into the foreground, our goal is to expand and deepen our collaboration with these three sections, as well as supporting the integration of all sections around multi-dimensional real-world challenges in general. Under the umbrella of the Social Science Section, the World Social Initiative Forum brings together diverse organizations with a social change mission. As many of our organizations belong squarely to into this network, the Council is building a partnership with the Forum that will allow us to stay actively engaged with each other's projects and developments and thereby provide a practical and concrete link between the Council and the Social Science Section worldwide.

At the end of the conference in October 2018, the Leadership Team presented the Council's new name, logo and website. We would like to invite you to visit our new website. It is available in German and English now, and we will be adding Spanish and Russian as well. Sign up for our quarterly newsletter on the website. www.inclusivesocial.org
You can also follow us on [Facebook](#) and on [Instagram](#).

We hope that these platforms will help us become more aware of each other across the world, and to continue caring for and building the interdisciplinary networks of collegueship that have grown over the course of the last 100 years or so.

**ECCE WISHES ALL OUR MEMBERS,
FRIENDS AND READERS OF THE LINK A**

