

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.

ECCE Link

Nr. 31 – April 8th, 2020

Published by European Co-operation in
Anthroposophical Curative Education and Social Therapy
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1. ECCE General Meeting 2020 – May 15th, 2020 – per Video Conference

Due to the actual situation of Covid-19 the ECCE General Meeting 2020 cannot take place as planned in Emerson College.

This General Meeting will be held in a digital way, in form of a video conference named „Zoom“, a professional kind of skype for big groups, via internet.

This **extraordinary General Meeting** with the organisational, administrative part will be held on **Friday, May 15th from 2 – 4 pm.**

After a short pause the 2nd (informal) part of this General Meeting will follow **Friday, May 15th from 4.30 – 6 pm with your reports from the countries.**

Renate Chwatal

2. “Agarra el Pez, no lo dejes escapar. El encuentro como camino”



Este sugerente enunciado, “**Agarra el Pez, no lo dejes escapar. El encuentro como camino**”, es el elegido como trasfondo del 4º Encuentro Hispano-Portugués de Compañeros que las instituciones de la Federación Hispano-Portuguesa de Pedagogía Curativa y Terapia Social preparan durante este año 2020. En esta ocasión, siendo el encuentro itinerante en lo que concierne a la organización, recae su convocatoria y organización en **la Asociación Tobías** en Madrid. Institución cofundadora de la Federación Hispano-Portuguesa de Pedagogía Curativa y Terapia Social y que, desde el año 1997 viene desempeñando su labor de comunidad de vida entorno a las personas mas vulnerables.

Es difícil aventurar en vistas de los acontecimientos a los que en la actualidad nos enfrentamos si este deseado Congreso de Personas Especiales podrá realizarse de forma física, pues, el confinamiento al que la población mundial esta sometida probablemente no permita tal celebración, sin embargo, el tema elegido que con esmero preparamos en nuestras instituciones puede actuar como bálsamo y punto de encuentro anímico espiritual en el seno de nuestro movimiento y por ende para el conjunto de la humanidad.


Con los trasfondos que nos sugiere la leyenda de Tobías podemos reflexionar sobre las cualidades de “**el encuentro como camino**”.



De todos conocida la imagen que Francesco Botticini pintó en el año 1470, que nos muestra el joven Tobías en la zona central de la imagen acompañado por el Arcángel Rafael (el médico divino) que en su afable inspiración ayuda a ordenar los destinos, actuando como portador de curación y fuente de inspiración y enseñanzas en la práctica terapéutica. Esta imagen central está flanqueada por el Arcángel Gabriel portando un lirio blanco, envuelto en una túnica azul que cubre sus hombros y espalda, y otra verde que acompaña sus pasos de pies desnudos símbolos de nacimiento terrenal, a la derecha del observador. A la izquierda el Arcángel Michael vistiendo armadura metálica y portando en su mano izquierda una esfera dorada, ceñida a su cintura la funda roja de su espada, color que también podemos observar en sus calzas y capa, su mano derecha sostiene con firmeza una espada puntiaguda que señala a lo alto y su mirar puesto en los ojos del observador recordando que a todos nos espera en el umbral de la muerte.

El joven Tobías, alza su mirada y coge de su mano derecha la confianza de la sabiduría, sabiéndose en la soledad del tortuoso camino acompañado, encuentra el remedio para sus males y tormentos que sostiene en su mano en forma de pez.

Podemos observar aquí, la vulnerabilidad hasta la posible caída, la experiencia de soledad y división, incluso en presencia del prójimo, el observador profano. Con la alegría del encuentro, de la comprensión, de la atracción hasta convertirse participe del mensaje, podemos convertirnos en uno con la imagen, percibiendo el trasfondo que esta imagen muestra como ninguna otra, la **NO SOLEDAD**, el acompañamiento en el transito a recorrer, las múltiples facetas de los misterios ocultos que proporcionan estabilidad en las penurias del camino a través del calor de la compañía manifiesta en el libre albedrio que anda en busca de su libertad.



Quizás sí, sea una guerra encubierta lo que estemos viviendo hoy día, el todos contra todos al que en silencio tan habituados estamos y hoy así se manifiesta. hoy el miedo constriñe nuestra zona media, nuestra respiración se entrecorta, nuestra circulación

se comprime, es ahí donde se encuentra el vehículo de intercambio entre lo que vive dentro, en nuestro interior y su relación con el mundo exterior. Ese ámbito reflexivo, de interés, portador de esperanza, empatía y asombro, vivacidad y compasión, de abnegación y entrega al prójimo, se ve hoy día amenazado.

“Tobías extrae del pez, que se le lanza a devorarlo, la medicina para curar a Sara y a Tobit. El pez es aquí, el símbolo de las dificultades que el hombre debe acoger y de las que recibe la ayuda para superarlas.

Ante un problema podemos adoptar dos posturas: Huir de él o enfrentarlo, al hacer lo último, percibimos que superando los obstáculos somos otra persona. Son los obstáculos los que ayudan al crecimiento de nuestras facultades y poder llegar así, a la fe y a la confianza en nosotros mismos”.

Este es el mensaje que nos transmiten nuestros hermanos/compañeros de Tobías desde Madrid, como reflexión en la preparación del cuarto Congreso regional de personas dependientes.

Estos días de introspección pueden convertirse en una gran oportunidad para, desde la libertad, sacar el eterno humano que todos llevamos dentro, pudiendo así contribuir a la humanización de la individualidad, de la sociedad que tan amenaza se encuentra hoy día por el egoísmo deshumanizante y el avance de las fuerzas de transhumanización lideradas por los avances tecnológicos y de inteligencia artificial. Sí, artificial, la artificialidad que nos aparta de lo verdaderamente esencial.

Visto desde esta perspectiva, es natural que la incertidumbre de paso al temor, al miedo, a la desconexión. Hoy más que nunca, la disposición de ánimo noble, la entrega en la tarea de cuidado amoroso del prójimo, de la naturaleza, de nuestra sociedad pueden convertirse en fuerzas sanadoras donde el tú y el yo puedan generar lo esencial **“el nosotros”**.

Atravesamos todos, en este tiempo, momentos de incertidumbre abordando esta situación excepcional que actualmente vivimos desde la intimidad de nuestro **Ser**.

SER, ESTAR Y HACER cogen hoy día un significado más profundo si cabe. ¿Donde buscar respuestas a la incertidumbre? ¿Cómo dar respuestas validas a la actual situación? ¿Qué puedo yo hacer? ¿qué podemos nosotros hacer? Seguro, estas y otras preguntas surgen de nuestro interior queriendo acompañar la resolución de nuestro bien preciado, **“El libre albedrío”**. Y es que, todos tenemos opinión, a todos nos invaden sentimientos y todos tenemos la oportunidad de manejar nuestras acciones.

Nuestras comunidades terapéuticas, ya sean de Pedagogía Curativa o de Terapia Social, siempre se han caracterizado por encontrar el bienestar individual a través del nosotros, haciendo de la inclusión a la inversa su seña de identidad. En estos momentos en los que la actividad externa se ve restringida por las medidas de excepción que los gobiernos establecen, compañeros y acompañantes mantienen la llama encendida. Se cuida de los espacios, unos y otros protegiéndonos mutuamente.

En las comunidades se continua con el cuidado del entorno, los animales, las huertas, manteniendo los lugares llenos de vida, como siempre lo han estado, también se hacen las tareas de logística para la provisión de las necesidades que se puedan tener,

alimentos, productos de limpieza, etc. En algunos casos se implementan nuevos ritmos para hacer más llevadero el confinamiento y, se extreman las medidas de higiene y desinfección. Se cuida, aun más si cabe, la alimentación física y también la anímica a través de la práctica artística, ampliando la conciencia de la necesidad imperante del Saber Ser, Saber Estar y Saber Hacer.

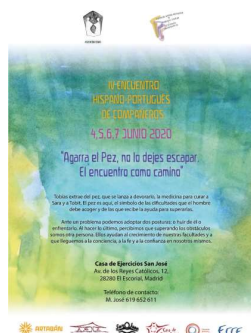
El sabernos acompañados por el cuidado amoroso, centrados en lo que ahora corresponde vivir, ordenados en los procedimientos que aplicamos dando importancia al más ínfimo gesto, sentimiento, pensamiento, nos ayuda a confiar en que pronto podremos celebra la superación de esta epidemia, esta enfermedad contagiosa que nos recuerda la importancia de cuidarnos mutuamente para no ser victimas de las apariencias, el desconocimiento, el temor y el miedo.

La naturaleza nos muestra que la vida continúa en nuestro entorno, esperando a ser acogida, haciéndola salir también desde nuestro interior como un ARTE-SOCIAL que colme nuestro cuerpo, nuestra alma y también nuestro espíritu.

Aprendiendo del COVID-19 en este tiempo en el que la naturaleza eclosiona aspirando de nuevo al reencuentro.

Fidel Ortega Dueñas

☾ ★ ☽



“Take the fish, don't let it escape. The meeting as a path” Federation Hispano-Portuguese of Curative education and Social therapie

This suggestive announcement, **“Take the fish, don't let it escape. The meeting as a path”** is chosen as the backdrop for the 4th Spanish-Portuguese Meeting of Companions that the institutions of the Spanish-Portuguese Federation of Curative Education and So cial therapie are preparing for this year 2020. The meeting and its organization being revolving, this time it is up to the Tobias Association in Madrid to organize it. This co-founding institution of the Spanish-Portuguese Federation of Curative Educa-tion and Social therapie has continued, since 1997, its work of community living around the most vulnerable people.

It is difficult to venture to predict, in the light of the events we are currently facing, if this desired congress for special people can be physically held because the confine-ment to which the world population is submitted will probably not allow such a celebra-tion. However, the chosen theme, which we carefully prepare in our institutions, can act as a balm and a spiritual meeting point within our movement and therefore for humanity as a whole. With the backdrop of the legend of Tobias, we can reflect on the qualities of **"meeting as a path"**.




Everyone knows the image that Francesco Botticini painted in 1470, which shows the young Tobias, in the central area of the image, accompanied by the Archangel Raphael (the divine doctor) who, in his affable inspiration, helps to bring order to destinies, acting as a carrier of healing and a source of inspiration and lessons in therapeutic practice. This central image is flanked by the Archangel Gabriel carrying a white lily, a blue cloth covering his shoulders and his back, and another, green, accompanying his barefoot walk, symbols of earthly birth, to the right of the observer. On the left, the Archangel Michael dressed in metallic armor and carrying a golden sphere in his left hand, the red scabbard of his sword belted at his waist - a color that can also be seen in his shoes and his scarf; his right hand firmly holds a sharp sword directed upwards and his gaze stuck in the eyes of the observer reminding us that we are all waiting on the threshold of death.

The young Tobias looks up and takes the confidence of wisdom in his right hand; knowing that he is accompanied in the loneliness of the tortuous path, he finds the remedy for his pains and torments which he holds in his hand in the form of a fish.

Here we can observe vulnerability, until the eventual fall, the experience of loneliness and division, even in the presence of the fellow man, the profane observer. With the joy of meeting, of understanding, of the attraction to conversion that participates in the message, we can become one with the image, perceiving the background that this image shows like no other, the **UNLONELINESS**, the accompaniment in the way to go, the multiple facets of the hidden mysteries that provide stability in road trials through the warmth of accompaniment manifested in free will which goes searching its freedom.

Perhaps yes, it is a secret war that we are living today, all against all to which we are so used to in silence and which manifests itself today. Today, fear constrains our rhythmic system, our breathing is jerky, our circulation is compressed, there is the



exchange vehicle between what lives inside us and the relationship with the outside world.

This interesting space for reflection, carrying hope, empathy and astonishment, liveliness and compassion, selflessness and devotion to others, is today threatened.

Tobby extracts from fish, which he is about to devour, the medicine to cure Sara and Tobit. The fish is, here, symbol of the difficulties that man must accept and from which he receives help to overcome them.

When faced with a problem, we can adopt two positions: flee or face it. By making this last choice, we perceive that by overcoming obstacles we are another person. It is the obstacles which help us to develop our faculties and which can thus make us reach faith and confidence in ourselves.

This is the message that our brothers / companions of Tobias send us from Madrid, as a reflection to prepare the fourth Regional Congress of dependent persons.

These days of introspection can become an excellent opportunity, from our freedom, to bring out the eternal human that we all have in ourselves, which can thus contribute to the humanization of individuality, of the society so threatened today by dehumanizing selfishness, by the rise of transhumanization forces liberated by advances in technology and artificial intelligence. Yes, artificial, the artificiality that separates us from what is really essential.

From this point of view, it is natural that the uncertainty passes to fear, to fright, to disconnection. Today more than ever, the disposition of the noble soul, the dedication to the task of lovingly caring for fellow men, for nature, for our society can become healing forces where the you and the I can generate the essential, "the **us**".

We are all going through moments of uncertainty facing this exceptional situation that we are currently living in the intimacy of our **Being**.

TO BE, TO BE THERE AND TO DO take on an even deeper meaning today if possible. Where to look for answers to uncertainty? How to give valid answers to the current situation? What can I do? What can we do? Of course, these and other questions arise from within us, wanting to accompany the realization of our precious commodity, the **free will**. It is true that we all have an opinion, we are all overrun with feelings and we all have the opportunity to manage our actions.

Our therapeutic communities, whether curative education or social therapy, have always been characterized by the search for individual well-being through the us, making reverse inclusion its hallmark. In these times when outdoor activity is limited by the exceptional measures set by governments, companions and support keep the flame burning. They take care of the spaces, each protecting each other.

In the communities, the care of the environment, animals, orchards continue, keeping the places full of life, as they have always been; the logistical tasks are also carried out to procure necessary goods such as food, cleaning products, etc. In some cases, new rhythms are implemented to make containment more bearable and extreme hygiene and disinfection measures are taken. We pay attention, even more if possible, to physical nourishment and the one of the soul through artistic practice, amplifying the awareness of the imperative need of Know-how to be, Know how to stay and Know-how to do.

Knowing that we are accompanied by loving care, centered on what it means to live today, ordered in the procedures that we apply, giving importance to the slightest gesture, the slightest feeling, the slightest thought, helps us to believe that we will soon be able to celebrate having overcome this epidemic, this contagious disease which reminds us of the importance of taking care of each other so as not to be victims of appearances, ignorance, fear and fright.

Nature shows us that the life that surrounds us continues, while waiting to be welcomed, also bringing it out of our interior as a SOCIAL ART that fills our body, our soul and also our spirit.

Learning from COVID-19 at this time when nature is blossoming, yearning to meet again.

Translation by Béatrice Cussac de-Verteuil



3. Corona pandemic – aspects and perspectives



Goetheanum · Freie Hochschule für Geisteswissenschaft
Medizinische Sektion

The new coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 is spreading worldwide and has led to unprecedented consequences and restrictions in public life and of civil rights. The symptoms of the frequently only mild infection affect the airways and cardiovascular system in particular. Alongside the general symptoms such as fever, muscle pain and fatigue, it is above all the lungs as the organ of the middle, rhythmical human being which can be seriously affected if the disease progresses that far. The affinity of the SARS-CoV-2 virus to the ACE2 receptor means that there can be associated cardiovascular regulatory disorders which can, for example, affect patients with high blood pressure, who often take antihypertensive medication (e.g. ACE inhibitors), to a greater extent.

The full article can be found on the website of the Goetheanum, in several languages <https://goetheanum.co/de/nachrichten/das-coronavirus>





4. Meet & Greet

by Bernard Heldt

Before the EASPD ‘Meet & Greet’ meeting with members of the European Parliament on 4th December 2019, 17h00-19h00 took place, the Steering Board for Social Infrastructure (SBSI) and Mr Alfred Sant, member of the European Parliament (MEP), co-organised the European Parliament event “InvestEU & the Economy of Well-being: making the most of local know-how”, 14h30-16h30.

With over 130 participants, the SBSI engaged with EU policy makers and investors on concrete steps to ensure that InvestEU brings genuine solutions to high-quality and innovative social, health, education, and housing projects. The major recommendation was to ensure that the Steering Board becomes a formal Advisory Partner to help InvestEU reach its social impact potential in local communities across Europe.


“Make Us Advisory Partners to Boost InvestEU’s Social Impact”
says Steering Board for Social Infrastructure

The Steering Board for Social Infrastructure was created in 2017, in part to provide a cross-sectoral and representative partner for the European institutions to improve the impact of EU Investment initiatives in the social, health, education, housing and ageing sectors. It brings together the European Association of Service providers for Persons with Disabilities (EASPD), Eurohealthnet, Lifelong Learning Platform, Housing Europe, AGE Platform, FEANTSA & the European Social Network. It represents thousands of both public and private organisations providing services which enables millions of people in Europe to access their human and social rights, to live healthier, to be empowered and to live in dignity.



The European Union has been increasingly active in trying to **boost private investment in Europe, including in the social sectors**. The European Commission has recently proposed a new [InvestEU](#) program, currently under negotiation, which builds on previous EU initiatives and **aims to improve access to finance (typically, loans) for social projects with a dedicated window** for “Social investment and skills”.

The Steering Board for Social Infrastructure (SBSI) was created in 2017, in part to provide a cross-sectoral and representative partner for the European institutions **to improve the impact of EU Investment initiatives in the social, health, education, housing and ageing sectors**. SBSI brings together major representatives of the social services, health, education, social and affordable housing and ageing sectors at European level. Together, these sectors enable all persons in Europe to access their human and social rights, to live healthier, to be empowered and to live in dignity.



They also enable the economy to function better, fairer and more sustainably, as highlighted by the [Council Conclusions on the Economy of Wellbeing](#).

All of these fields of activity have funding gaps and lack investment. Whilst addressing **the public funding gap must continue to be the N°1 priority** for the European Union, **the proposed InvestEU program can be an opportunity to boost access to finance for social infrastructure development.**

***Mr Luk Zelderloo**, Secretary General of EASPD and SBSI member, confirmed “the potential of InvestEU for social impact”; yet highlighted “the risk is that InvestEU fails to reach the most impactful social projects, which are often bottom-up, community-based and require more targeted technical expertise. Luckily for the European Commission and Investors, they have a ready-made solution: the Steering Board for Social Infrastructure and our ability to understand and engage with our local membership. We must become advisory partners to bridge the gap!”*

Bernard Heldt had been invited as well to EASPD's "Meet & Greet" with MEPs, which has taken place as well in the European Parliament.

This '**Meet & Greet**' brings together members of the European Parliament (MEPs) and EASPD members to give the opportunity to meet newly elected MEPs and discuss the issues that are most important to us at European level. During the two-hour event, a panel discussion with key MEPs had been organised to display EASPD's proposals, followed by a drink, where we could exchange views with EP members in person. The 'Meet & Greet' meeting was intended to be a wake-up call for politicians.

The UNCRPD has been adopted by all member states and demands acceptance and removal of barriers. We must invest in the future. A member of the European Parliament said that the parliament had organized two meetings without light to experience what it is like to be blind.

James Crowe, president of EASPD, stated that the MEPs are committed to people with disabilities; he asked for an eco-system for them.

Kirsi Konola, EASPD board member: "There are an increasing number of people with disabilities who have to live in poverty; inclusion must be supported, investments must be made in training". To which Bernard Heldt, ECCE, stated that "there must be an attitude change among the citizens; as it were a cultural change in the whole of society! Working on the acceptance of people with disabilities is working on ourselves - we then get a broader frame of reference and will develop more acceptance for everyone ". A MEP responded that there is a big difference between the EU member states in how the UNCRPD is handled - it is still too much theory and too little practice! Children with disabilities often have no access to education and the labor market or can barely study abroad. It should be talked about with people with disabilities; inclusion appears to encounter many barriers.

It also appears that people with disabilities are often victims of violence and do not know what to do. They often have no partner and no sexual life.

Luk Zelderloo, general secretary EASPD, closed the session by emphasizing how good it is that the MEPs hear these messages; he emphasizes the need for cooperation and the intention to continue with the MEPs in the network!

The day ended with an EASPD dinner, in which we could network with fellow EASPD members.



Bernard Heldt



The ECCE Committee hopes to meet all of our members again in person soon and wishes you and your loved ones strength and health in these difficult days.