

ECCE Link

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1. In memorium Dr. Leonardo Fulgosi

Leonardo Fulgosi and the ECCE

We have received the sad news that Leonardo Fulgosi has passed away, September 27th of this year. Leonardo (1935 - 2021) was a co-founder of ECCE and from its inception in 1992 till 2013 a much appreciated board member and vice president.

In the board meetings of ECCE Leonardo Fulgosi brought his insights from an overview of curative pedagogy and social therapy in Europe. He was able to point out its strengths and argued for autonomy in Europe. From his experiences he was able to raise awareness to not neglect the consequences of decisions at European level and to work together with related organizations.

During the 21 years of his vice-presidency of ECCE, Leonardo Fulgosi presented a few experiences about quality of life of persons in need of special care. He preferred to speak about 'friends' and not about "clients. In different ways they have different qualities. It is important to exchange experiences".

In a very special way, he illustrated some of his personal experiences as a medical doctor in Perceval. Regular ways of communication do not always fit to get to know the



wishes of people with learning disabilities. Often a huge effort must be made to meet their inner self. They too make a huge effort to let us know what they want. Engagement and responsible behaviour are key words in this respect.

He stressed the fact that it is of the greatest importance to work together within the associations and federations as well as within the countries in relation to persons with special needs. They need all those organisations! Training courses need to be organized separately from providers and parents. Quality of care is the main objective.

“Think globally and act locally (= personally)” is an important statement from Leonardo.

Leonardo Fulgosi spoke about the fact that he met the same sort of children all over the world. What does global, globalization mean? Everything and everyone is included in the world. But where are the children with special needs when we speak about globalization? What is their place in this global world? A child is treated in a very local way, not global. One should focus on the child and help it in a way which meets the special personal needs of that child. So “Think globally and act locally.”

Example: an autistic child can be recognized all over the world, f.i. in Africa, Australia or Great Britain; however, there are differences related to family, country, etc. Every child is different, there is not one method, one way to treat an autistic child. A doctor acts in a limited, local way; there is a relationship between the doctor and the child.

When a child is born, each mother has her own milk, the child is related to its mother. It starts to develop through this milk. It starts its process of individualisation, of independence, emancipation from the mother, the family, the nation to become a man/woman of the world. Its own world will relate more and more to the global world, but it will keep its own identity. It grows to emancipation, emancipation to what? To a human being. To become part of humanity.

We are striving to become more acquainted with the world, to become part of the world; a child is walking the same path to become part of the world. But children with an intellectual impairment have a different constitution. So, we should help this child to grow to individuality within its own environment. Education should be related to the child in a local way, there should be an individual relationship between the teacher and the child. Globalization in this field is a danger. One should take the idea and create something else according to the environment of the place, adapt it locally. Every child has a right to be a child, also in school.

Leonardo Fulgosi stressed the importance of respect of parents and teachers for the child. A child feels this respect and can then emancipate to an individuality. It has to experience this respect for him/her. Then it can make choices.

Teachers are involved in the global/local way of thinking. Children do mirror our society. Sometimes it is the right thing to take the child out of its own environment and to learn about respect for its own specific characteristics. Parents are aware of the importance of their relationship with the child.

An important statement of Leonardo Fulgosi: “there will be no respect without love.” Leonardo stresses the fact that it is of the greatest importance to work together within the organisations and within the countries in relation to persons with special needs. Parent associations should find a link with training in their countries. “Lifelong learning” is an important issue in this field for the future. A formal contact with universities could be useful.

ECCE should develop a policy in this field.

All countries are operating within the limits of their own borders. As an anthroposophical movement, we should move beyond the borders. The anthroposophical movement is not a sect. It is not enough to say that it isn't; there should be discussion about this theme. We live in a time with a variety of choices, this becomes stronger and stronger. We can underlie and sustain this development.

Humanity makes choices, there is not one way; freedom of choice is important. ECCE is trying to keep up with the possibilities of choice, is against restriction. Parents have a voice; they are listened to. They speak for themselves and their families. In future, associations of families will become a real possibility for free choice. Parents do have the right to be listened to.

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Fidel Ortega Dueñas, representative of the Federação de pedagogia curativa e sócio-terapia em Espanha e Portugal and board-member of ECCE wrote:

"His teachings and guidance inspired me since my age as a young adult. In addition to his mastery, I was able to have an intimate friendship with Leonardo that will last forever. I am sure that from the level where he is, he will continue to radiate the guidance, wisdom and mastery that we need."

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Obituary by Bernard Heldt, a ECCE co-founder, former Secretary General for the Association for Curative Education in The Netherlands, currently vice-president of the ECCE.

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2. Acceptance – Resonance – Communities of Choice

Autumn conference of the Curative Education and Social Therapy movement
inspired by the 9th lecture of the Curative Education Course from Rudolf Steiner
7-9 October 2021 in Dornach, Switzerland

We, the international community around the Anthroposophic Council For Inclusive Social Development, have just finished our small autumn conference at the Goetheanum this year. It was an experience in a new direction with many new faces. Unusual and from the point of view of the management team, together with a 7-member team of international younger staff, a balancing act: no lecture, but open discussion formats and artistic processes were the focus. To accept, to resonate and then to be able to experience ourselves in the space of an elective community, that was our concern.



One of the pictures from the conference.

A more detailed report will be available soon in the upcoming issue of the journal Perspectives and in the November/December issue of Camphill Correspondence.

Save the date now for the big international autumn conference from October 5-9, 2022 at the Goetheanum.

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3. ACESTA

Dear friends and colleagues in ECCE,

ACESTA has now got its website up and running and Andi our technical support and our little group of active members are regularly updating it. It is named **acesta.org.uk**

If you have any information, documents, archive material, names of important affiliated organisations or events you think might be of interest, please do send them to me and we will add them. Also publications that may be well worth translating would be welcome. We will have a foreign language work section.

As there are now quite a few events online as well as - thank goodness - face to face - again, there may be a wider audience that could benefit, so do let us know.

For those who don't know yet, our next ACESTA conference was planned to take place at Emerson College in Sussex in England from the 16th - 21st of November 2021. Please let your members know. We are grateful to have colleagues joining us from far and wide: Joan Sleight from South Africa, Bart van Mechelen from Belgium, Richard Steel from Germany and USA, Jon Geelmuyden from Sweden, Hartwig Ehlers from Germany, Aonghus Gordon's colleagues from Ruskin Mill Educational Trust, Dr. Michael Evans, Peter Brown and Wendy Cook from UK. The programme, further details and the booking forms will go on the Emerson website and booking system in the next few weeks.

As much as we are interested in supporting present and future training and research and creating a platform for the sharing of these, there is also a vast body of remarkable history and work done by those on whose shoulders we stand, and we would like to contribute to safely archiving these.

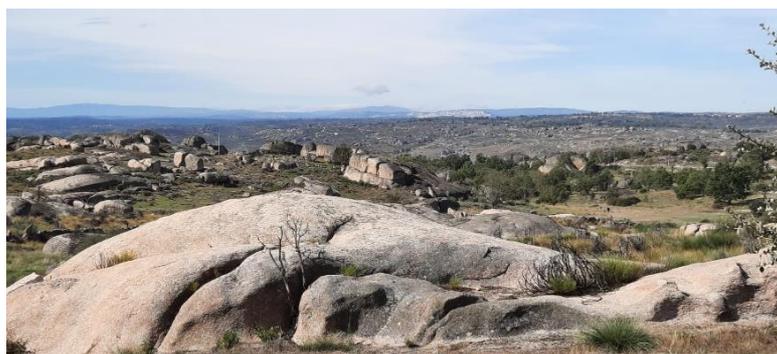
Paulamaria Blaxland-de Lange
Director Founder of Pericles
Chair of Acesta



4. ASTA's 21st birthday, Portugal

Visit and report by Renate Chwatal

After having crossed the Spanish border to Portugal the landscape changed rapidly. In the gentle hills appeared large round rocks, which I have learnt, are typical for the area of Cabreira.



This interesting area is home to ASTA, which was founded by Maria José Dinis for her son Marco on his 21st birthday, on October 2nd2000.

As ECCE Management Assistant, it was a great pleasure and honor for me to be invited to this very special 21st birthday from ASTA on October 2nd, 2021.

On this special day I received a very warm welcome in this little village called Cabreira, near Almeida, in the North of Portugal.

Today 44 companions spend their life in several houses and different workshops, more or less independently, and all these places are designed with love and enthusiasm.

I was very impressed by the program of this special day, where public figures, like the Secretary of State for the Inclusion of People with Disabilities, the mayor of Almeida and the mayor of Cabreira were present. The program started in Almeida - Riding of El Rey, the inauguration of the tile panels depicting each horse, a very special pottery work done by the ASTA group. Followed by the Thanksgiving Mass with the entire Village community and harvest festival. A highlight was the gastronomic break, the encounter with own flavors, between the São Francisco kitchen and the Alto da Fonte Salgueira pine forest.



I was very impressed by the warmth, the hospitality and the engagement of Maria José and her team. There is a future project that sounds very interesting and new to me. The tourism project, in which the companions invite tourists to stay some days in their place in Cabreira, where they show them their city and explain the history of the place.

In the afternoon I had the opportunity to inform the entire guests about the tasks and viewpoints of ECCE.

I invited the companions of ASTA to participate in the upcoming congress "moving borders" from 15 to 18 June 2022 in Zurich/Switzerland and I very much hope to meet many of the ASTA companions there.

After the program everybody enjoyed the birthday cake and ASTAS' musical group "Pé Coxinho".



I wish ASTA and Maria José continued joy and every success in this important work.

Renate Chwatal

5. “East-West Vienna 2022” congress

Dear participants!

We continue to assume that the “East-West Vienna 2022” congress will take place at Pentecost from June 4th to 6th!

In Austria, a law is currently being prepared that will abolish the voluntary acceptance of so-called protective vaccinations and, in the event of refusal, provide for punitive measures that could endanger the existence of those affected. As it is not yet clear which restrictions there will actually be in June for both the implementation of the congress and the people taking part, we have not yet been able to contractually fix the last chosen venue. It is a former factory building in the east of the city of Vienna, in which there is a lot of leeway for all kinds of distance regulations. In any case, the venue is agreed orally. In view of the current legal situation in Austria, the risk of losing an advance payment due upon conclusion of the contract is not responsible. The implementation of the Congress East-West Vienna 2022 under conditions that fundamentally question the ability of people to make decisions and act as an expression of their dignity is out of the question for us.

In the event of a public restriction of the basic rights beyond the known 3G measures, the event will take place either in the open air or within the association in the House of Anthroposophy. Depending on the location, the number of participants will vary accordingly. Tickets that have already been paid for will of course also be reimbursed upon individual agreement. Please be patient with us! We will be able to take the next steps at the beginning of February 2022.

With best regards for a Merry Christmas and best wishes for a good, hopeful and humane new beginning!

Organizing group East-West Vienna 2022

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6. Reflection of the ECCE Committee about the situation of ECCE, word of the President

Lumière et chaleur

Noël. Dans la nuit, une lumière surgit. Les étoiles vont guider les bergers et les rois mages vers elle, vers l'essentiel. Après deux années assombries par le Covid, je forme le vœu que cette lumière nous éclaire tout au long de l'année dans nos choix personnels, familiaux, professionnels, associatifs... Et réchauffe nos cœurs.

Nous ne savons pas encore quand nous pourrions nous réunir physiquement. Cela nous manque car rien ne remplace les "vrais" contacts humains. Gardons l'espoir de nous retrouver en juin prochain, chez nos amis suisses à l'occasion du congrès qu'ils préparent et de l'assemblée générale de l'ECCE que nous programmons dans ce cadre. D'ici là, je vous souhaite de profiter pleinement des moments joyeux qui s'offriront à vous.

Light and warmth

Christmas time. In the night, a light is appearing. The stars will guide the shepherds and the three wise men towards it, to the essential.

After two years darkened by the Covid, I hope that this light will enlighten us throughout the year in our personal, family, professional, associative choices..... and warm our hearts.

We do not yet know when we will be able to meet physically. We miss this because nothing can replace "real" human contacts. Let us hope to meet again next June, with our Swiss friends on the opportunity of the congress they are preparing, and the general meeting of the ECCE that we are planning in this context. Until then, I hope you will fully enjoy the happy moments that will come to you.

Béatrice Cussac de-Verteuil – ECCE President



7. ECCE General Meeting 2022, June 18th, Zurich

The General Meeting 2022 is planned to be held after the Congress "Shifting boundaries" June 15-18, 2022 in the center of Zurich, Switzerland.

Please save the date, more information about the ECCE General Meeting 2022 will follow as soon as available.



A YEAR IS COMING TO AN END

We stop for a moment, look back, reflect.
We thank for health, contentment and peace for ourselves.

We are grateful for the people we have met,
thank you very much for the trust placed in
us and the good cooperation.

We wish you a contemplative Advent season,
a blessed Christmas and
a good and healthy start into the year 2022.

