

# ECCE Link

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## **Dear members and friends of ECCE**

We are glad to send you the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the ECCE Link, which has been published since 2010. Before that the paper edition was called 'What's going on'.

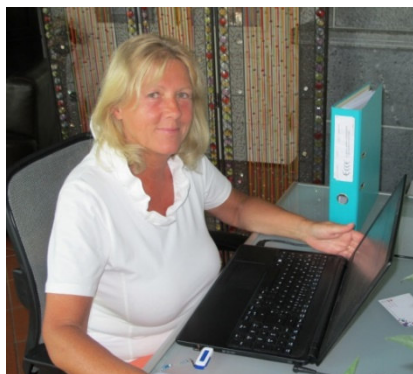
In this edition we are happy to tell you about the decisions of our last successful General Meeting in Emerson College. This meeting had the motto '90 years Curative Education', were Richard Steel from the Karl König Archive in Berlin has given inspiring lectures.

Mrs. Renate Chwatal, our new office manager will present herself and new Committee members are welcomed as well

**our new president from January 1<sup>st</sup> 2015 Mrs. Béatrice Cussac**, well known to most of you.

The descriptions of tasks of Committee members and management assistant are available. And last but not least: **our website has been renewed** by Mr. Michael Shorny and Renate Chwatal in Vienna. Look at **[www.ecce.eu](http://www.ecce.eu)**.

## **1. Dear members and friends of ECCE**



My name is Renate Chwatal, most of you will know me for quite some time.

I think it was in 2007 when the General Meeting of ECCE took place in Austria, at the "Dorfgemeinschaft Breitenfurt", where my son Alexander started to work and to live at that time, after many years at "Karl Schubert Schule", a Steiner school for curative education in Vienna. Parents were invited to meet ECCE members and I remember that I was very interested in the topics at this international gathering. Since then I visited ECCE General Meetings regularly and 2 years later

I was delegated to represent the Austrian Parents Organisation "Sprachrohr" at ECCE.

Since January 2014 the ECCE office is located in Vienna and as ECCE Management assistant I am responsible for correspondence & communication, mailing/sending invitations and agendas, minutes and reports of different meetings, contacts with hosts organising the General Meetings, contacts with web-designer for the new website and with the treasurer concerning financial issues.

It is a great pleasure for me to work for ECCE in support of the secretary, Thomas Kraus, and the other Committee Members.

If you have any questions, suggestions or information for ECCE please do not hesitate to contact me:

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Mobile phone: +43(0)664 360 7043.

## 2. New ways for ECCE – General Meeting Emerson College May '14

During the ECCE General Meeting, held May 8<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> in Emerson College, Forest Row (near London), UK, 90 years curative education was celebrated in a festive way.

The days were divided in the themes 'the past', 'the present' and 'the future'.

*Thanks to Richard Steel*

Richard Steel (Karl König Archive, Berlin) gave appealing and inspiring lectures about the theme 'how do we live now with the Curative Course of Rudolf Steiner and how can we find the significance for the near future?'. During his lecture about 'Human experience and freedom' he touched the today's world biggest problems as fear, complacency, the inertia of the heart and hatred.

No-one missed the singing with Gregers Brinch and the artistic speech work with Sarah Kane. The participants worked on Shakespeare's drama "The Tempest" where was started to experience how the past influences the present and the future and what happens if the future is going its own way.

Adrienne Thier and Bernard Heldt told about their work with European colleague NGO's. Bernard Heldt gave a short overview of the past of ECCE since 1992 and referred to the document 'Objectives and Results 1992-2012', (available on the website). He reminded on Mr. Jack Reed and Mrs. Margareth Mac Donald Bain, 2 British founders of ECCE. He underlined that ECCE works behind the scenes in the European labyrinth for which it is founded. "*You will not see ECCE in an institute, but probably once a year during the General Meeting*".

Several members gave sketches about the present situation in their countries and expectations for the future. Michael Luxford from ACESTA and coordinator of the Camphill Association of UK and Ireland, portrayed the present situation in UK.

Thomas Kraus, Committee member ECCE and initiator of the 'Living-in-the-Encounter' conferences, led an Inclusive Round-table conversation with youngsters with an intellectual disability from surrounding inclusive communities.

The theme was: 'how can the present be transformed into and out of the future?'. Questions like "what is your personal success?", "what have you achieved in the last years?", "how do you know if people accept you?" and "what are your wishes for the future?" were discussed with dedication.

### Decisions, new Committee members, new president

During the organisation part of the meeting the following decisions were taken:

- New Committee members: Ann Naeyaert, BE (treasurer) and Fidel Ortega, ES.
- New president: Béatrice Cussac, from January 1<sup>st</sup> 2015.
- The contribution key has been renewed from 2015.
- The contribution for supporting members with an intellectual disability will be from 2014: €2/month



At this point we would like to thank **Paulamaria** Blaxland-de Lange for her commitment and organization of the General Meeting



**The draft report of the General Meeting and more information can be asked for at [info@ecce.eu](mailto:info@ecce.eu)**

### 3. Project group future of ECCE, report by Fidel Ortega

**Participants of the group:** Ann Naeyaert/Belgium, Helle Hansen/Denmark, Rigmor Skålholt/Norway, Fidel Ortega/Spain.

**Fidel** gives an imagination of the "future-meeting"

ECCE is now 22 years old – more than 25 members from 18 countries – the aim is to come into work – like a fountain of inspiration for all of us –communication, to develop **human consciousness, the spirit** of wisdom is developing in our countries.

We should never forget that we are all individuals. How can we achieve these common objectives? What we can do to overcome the threat inherent in current legislation and normalisation.

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> lecture of the Curative Education Course of Rudolf Steiner states that there are different ways to bring our work into practice. We have to look for the truth behind the symptoms. We create our thoughts, but where do they come from?

It is not a community where they come from (not found yet) but there is a collective thought and this fountain of inspiration/thoughts can come from the whole community. Sensibility comes from the eye, which enlivens what is next to me. Life becomes understandable. What is the karma of ECCE? It is our task during the day time, but during the night answers come to us – we can have it in our hands, it is our choice and the door is open."

Fidel thanks the participants of the group - this is the result and the inspiration of a common work.



### 4. Press conference MEP Mr. Ádám Kósa in Symbiosis (HU)

In May 2013 Symbiosis Foundation (Hungary) hosted ECCE Annual General Meeting at Barathegy Rehabilitation Farm. Part of this program there was the official opening ceremony of the new Social Therapy Center where Mr. Ádám Kósa (MEP) was invited as speaker and he also laid down a foundation stone as starting of a new construction. In 2014 during the European Parliament elections campaign Mr. Ádám Kósa held a press conference at our special farm and he stressed that there is still a lot to be done for the people with disabilities. We are all glad the Mr. Ádám Kósa was re-elected!



from the left: Mr. Miklós Soltész -former under-secretary of Ministry of Human Resources  
Mr. Ádám Kósa-MEP  
Mr. Gábor Kiss-deputy mayor of Miskolc City



from the left: Mr. László Jakubinyi-  
president of Symbiosis Foundation;  
Mr. Miklós Soltész former under-  
secretary of Ministry of Human  
Resources;  
Mr. Ádám Kósa-MEP

## 5. 'Creating social art', Living in the encounter congress, Brussels (BE), 6 - 9 May 2015. 6<sup>th</sup> European Congress for People with Disabilities

### CREATING SOCIAL ART

After Berlin (1998), Dornach (2001), Prague (2005), The Hague (2008) and Vienna (2011), the Sixth Congress "Living in the Encounter" is coming to Brussels, the capital of Europe. Brussels is a gold mine of art and culture. Our eventful history and the different political and language communities in Belgium gave us a lot of experience in the art of meeting and working together.

In the European Union 28 countries co-operate to build the future of Europe and over 215 countries are represented in Brussels.

A good conversation can make one feel great. It gives courage and joy, sometimes comfort. *What can I do to make the other feel respected, understood and appreciated?*

In encounters I may receive new ideas, inspiration and the wish to create something new with others. *How to create such a mood?*

In working with art we meet the world and the other on a deeper level. *What helps me to fully express myself and to create something beautiful with others?*

This is what we want to explore in open-hearted encounters, enjoyable conversations and creative workshops. And we want to celebrate that we, as free individuals, can create something new.

*How to transform this conference in a great and memorable work of art?*

### Practical information

**Venue:** The conference will take place in the beautiful Palace of Fine Arts, BOZAR, in the heart of Brussels.

**When:** from the 6<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> of May 2015.

**Program:** artistic workshops with music, painting, modeling; discussion groups, dance studios; excursions, exploring the beauty of architecture, street theater; Visiting museums of fine arts and musical instruments; excursions to the Atomium, Mini Europe; cultural evening with contributions from the participants; folk dance ball with live music; concert; enjoying delicious chocolates, waffles or French fries. At the registration desk one can choose the workshop one wants to participate in.

**Costs:** The fee is € 500. This includes all activities of the conference, meals and lodging.

**How many participants:** We can welcome 650 participants from all over the world. The sooner one registers and pays the better.

**Accommodation:** The participants will be housed in youth hostels in the Brussels area. They can be reached by foot or public transport and are wheelchair accessible.

**Meals:** Breakfast is to be taken in the youth hostels. The other meals in the BOZAR. Vegetarian dishes will be served but no alcoholic beverages.

6th European  
Congress  
for People  
with special needs  
and extra talents

6 - 9 May 2015

Brussels - Belgium



Translations: The congress languages are: Dutch, English, German and French.  
Organization: The congress is organized by a team of volunteers from Belgium, Holland and Germany, legally carried by "Michaëlis", the association of curative education and social therapy in Flanders in collaboration with the European Cooperation in Anthroposophical Curative Education and Social Therapy, ECCE.  
Fundraising: A congress of this kind costs a lot of money. The participants can help and ask family and friends for financial support. More practical information can be found on our website!

Participants from financially poorer countries can ask for a 50% discount. We are looking for sponsors to make this possible.

Registration: use the form on the website: [www.ontmoetenisleven.be](http://www.ontmoetenisleven.be)

Conference Office: [info@ontmoetenisleven.be](mailto:info@ontmoetenisleven.be) - phone: +32 494 511 925

More information: [www.ontmoetenisleven.be](http://www.ontmoetenisleven.be) and [www.in-der-begegnung-leben.eu](http://www.in-der-begegnung-leben.eu)

## **6. Europe in Action 2014 in Belfast, Northern Ireland, UK 'Growing up with an intellectual disability', 15 – 17 May 2014, by Inclusion Europe and Mencap\*)**

**This conference explored the important** business of growing up and the impact that intellectual disability has on the lives of a child or young person and their families. In the plenary and parallel sessions we heard many perspectives that matched our own experiences. There were many opportunities to talk about, to listen to and to explore different ideas.

I had the occasion during a parallel session and at the end during the official dinner to talk about two issues that ECCE is particularly interested in. That means: 1. people with very complex dependence needs and 2. the exportability of allowances.

**About the first point: In the European Union this group of people in need of very very special care is just unknown. The civil servants in charge of this group do not know what is meant by this group of people. So it is very important that ECCE draws the attention to this group of people in need of very special care at every level. I know Bernard Heldt did the same during the General Assembly of the European Disability Forum (EDF) in May 2014 in Croatia. And we did before in the meetings of the European Association of Service Providers in Disability.**

**As for the 2<sup>nd</sup> point; people with a disability cannot go and live where they want. Well they can, of course, but in that case they lose their disability allowance. I moved to live in France when I retired and Belgium pays my pension in France. No problem. But this is not possible for people with a disability. Bernard Heldt put this question in the General Assembly of the EDF in May. The European Union is still working on this issue.....!!**

\*) WHO ARE MENCAP AND INCLUSION EUROPE?

MENCAP: works to support people with a learning disability and their families and carers in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Find more at [www.mencap.org.uk](http://www.mencap.org.uk)

INCLUSION EUROPE: the European Association of People with Intellectual Disabilities and their Families is an umbrella organization that represents people with intellectual disabilities and their families in Europe. Find out more at [www.inclusion-europe.org](http://www.inclusion-europe.org)

Adrienne Thier, Brussels, July 2014

## **7. EU report on implementation UNCRPD is presented; collaboration with EASPD with regard to the shadow report**

The EU report is available by June 14<sup>th</sup>. The introduction of the report starts with the sentences:

*"This report has been prepared by the focal point, in liaison with relevant departments in the European Commission and other European Union institutions, agencies and bodies. The report covers the period from the entry into force of the CRPD for the EU in January 2011 to December 2013. Where relevant, it refers to previously adopted legislation and measures falling under the scope of the CRPD as well as to some key legislation proposed during the reporting period, and adopted in the first quarter of 2014. Its format and structure follow the guidelines issued by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD/C/23)."*

The presentation of the report was announced at the EDF's Annual General Meeting 17-18 May this year in Zagreb (HR) by Mr. Johan ten Geuzendam, adviser of the Disability Unit, DG Justice.

ECCE collaborates with EASPD ([www.easpd.eu](http://www.easpd.eu)) in realizing the shadow report as an answer to the European Commission. Representatives of ECCE members will participate in discussions about how the EU implements the UNCRPD and what improvements can be made, f.e concerning persons with complex dependency needs, ethics and the inherent value of work for the person.



#### **8. Cooperation in alliance ELIANT**

Human worth and individual development are core values of European culture. In order for these values to become a reality for all European citizens, freedom of choice is not enough. Instead, there must also be the opportunity to freely choose, especially in the areas of upbringing, education and health. ELIANT was founded in order to not only maintain but expand these opportunities to choose.

Alliance ELIANT is an important information platform for citizens, institutions, initiatives and businesses that are interested in diversity and continuing cultural development in Europe.

The founders of the ELIANT Alliance are the European umbrella organizations that represent the various initiatives of Rudolf Steiner's applied anthroposophy, like ECCE. They meet twice a year in Brussels. Bernard Heldt is ECCE's representative.

In this period ELIANT is concerned with agriculture issues and freedom of choice in medicine. This requires broader cooperation. ELIANT is f.e. co-founder (by Michaela Glöckler) of Democracy International.

Through your supporting membership or one-time contribution, you make it possible for us to carry on the work of ELANT, as the Core Members of Alliance ELIANT are not financially in a position to do so.

Even the smallest contribution helps to succeed in this work. Thank you!

All information about ELIANT and the possibility to donate you can find on [www.eliant.eu](http://www.eliant.eu)