



Waldorf School Klagenfurt (Austria): winner of an international school competition on intercultural dialogue.

The Waldorf School Klagenfurt (Austria), joint winners with the Leadership School in Bilwi (Nicaragua), convinced the jury of the "Bridging Cultures international competition" with their understanding of interculturality: diversity at both schools is self-evident.

For the Waldorf School Klagenfurt it is important that their students experience and learn intercultural dialogue in circumstances that are as realistic as possible; consequently it is important that they learn to look beyond the limits of their own experience. Gathering international and intercultural experiences is indispensable and helps eliminate xenophobia, prejudice and intolerance.

In the project period (from April to December 2007) the following projects were carried out on the subject of "intercultural dialogue":

The 12th grade exchanged their classroom for a few weeks of social work in kindergartens, hospitals, schools, rehabilitations clinics and social-therapeutic facilities throughout Austria, with the financial support from the European Commission through an EU-Leonardo da Vinci project, also in various European countries.

The 7th grade discussed the subject "intercultural dialogue - what does it mean in our own country?" For this they found a partner in a social-therapeutic home (Camphill) in Austria, worked together and developed a theatrical piece with the disabled residents.



Photo: Hillswerk Austria

The same class set out on a paddle tour through Slovenia along the Ljubljanica River from its source through Ljubljana with students of the same age from the Waldorf School in Ljubljana (Slovenia). There is only one way to go - if you get along and work together! As a result, there was no "unwillingness to understand" because every boat wanted to be the first to arrive at the destination -

hence the courage to somehow understand each other, for paddling in the right direction as fast as possible means finding a common rhythm!!

The 8th grade went on a class trip to Romania. The issue of poverty had already accompanied the students in their preparation and the desire to travel to Romania was closely related to this. They experienced the desolate condition of the trains, railway stations, streets, buildings. The visit to a factory in Sigioara in which shirts for the western market are produced provided insight into the world of work.

Not only the students participated in intercultural dialogue, but also the teachers joined in various projects. One was a European Conference in Lecce (southern Italy) on the subject "Towards Lisbon 2010", centered on intercultural experiences in the area of schooling, where in exchange with seven countries we were asked to incorporate our diverse experiences in the conference.

Project leader: Rosmarie Bluder
Participants: Students and teachers

COGNITIVE MEDIATION AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LEARNING POTENTIAL: CONFERENCE IN PALERMO

At the beginning of November 2007, I was in Palermo, Sicily, taking part in an International Conference on Cognitive Mediation and the Development of the Learning Potential, a conference with over 200 people attending, mainly teachers, head-masters from schools in Palermo and the surrounding areas, with subjects varying from education for gifted children, for immigrants, for children with special needs, for disabled persons.

The presentation on Waldorf education met with warm interest for the ways in which Waldorf methods could be used for teaching children with different needs.

The reports aimed at informing the public about the current research in the above mentioned fields of interest and also to create the space for the foundation of an International Learning and Education Agency that would bring together all these organisations. The foundation documents for the Agency were signed on the last day of the Conference, with the following goals: research for identifying new educational systems; study for educational methodologies; training of operators for the achievement of the objectives of the agreement; promotion of the actions; looking for funds for the carrying out of the project and transnational actions in partnership with organisations and institutions of other states, which can contribute to a further cultural growth.

In the document, spreading the Waldorf Method together with the Feuerstein Method and the Montessori Method, is a specific domain of interest, that shows the special resonance Steiner's pedagogy has in the different fields of education mentioned above. The organisers will present the results to the governments of their respective countries, in order to draw attention to the educational needs of these different categories of children and to foster the creation of educational laws that could open up legal opportunities for enrichment programmes and the sustainment of specific educational methods, such as Waldorf and Montessori. We have been also invited to join the Agency.

Liliana-Emilia Dumitriu
Federatia Waldorf
din România

WREN

(Waldorf Researchers and Educators)

**11th International conference
Mannheim (Germany)
24th-27th of September 2008**

This annual conference is organised in order to bring together Waldorf Teacher Educators, colleagues active in fields closely allied to Steiner Education and those interested in areas of educational research inspired by its insights.

The Programme will be available shortly. If you would like to participate, please contact Chiara Carones: ecswe@waldorf.net

CESTE-Net project (2005 - 2007): curative education and social therapy in Europe

Since 2005 ECSWE has been partner of CESTE-Net, a European project supported by the European Commission as a follow-up of a previous Leonardo da Vinci project CESTE (Curative Education and Social Therapy in Europe), which was carried out during the period of 1998-2001 and resulted in the production of a manual for the training of co-workers in the field.

CESTE-Net was to focus on the training of trainers in the "Trinal" Method: theory, practice and art. 34 trainers (teachers, practice tutors and artists) from 15 countries were ready to participate in 4 modules of one week each, and were to contribute by carrying out individual action research projects in their own seminars and institutes.

A Coordination and Research Group was formed with the following persons for the management and support of the 4 week pilot course which was to be held for the trainers:

Jean-Claude Hucher, Director «École supérieure en éducation Sociale, Lausanne» (programme design)

Dr. Bernhard Schmalenbach, Camphill Schulgemeinschaft Brachenreuth (action research)

Dr. Michael Brater, Gesellschaft für Ausbildungsforschung und Berufsentwicklung, München (vocational training expertise)

Petter Holm Scandinavian Association for Curative Education and Social Therapy (project coordinator).

Aims of the project

- to develop, design, test and assess a European Training for Trainers Programme

- to develop and document the Trinal Method within a research context

- to disseminate the idea and practice of the Trinal Method within a wider European context

- to promote the further development of our international cooperation and training network

Among the achievements,

- The development of a "Draft Curriculum" for the 4 modules of the pilot course for trainers.

- The planning, organisation and implementation of the four modules with 34 trainers, in Prague (Nov. 2005), Järna (March 2006), Bad Boll (Oct. 2006) and Zeist (Feb. 2007).

- The production of a DVD in cooperation with Marjatta, Denmark. The film demonstrates the importance of the arts in the vocational training of professionals who will work with individuals in need of special care. The title is "The Creative Mind"

- The planning, initialisation and financing of a dissemination project in Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Ukraine and Georgia. The project, KRUG, has run parallel to Ceste-Net and has the same objectives and scope (Training for Trainers with 35 participants in 5 modules / block weeks).

For more information, visit www.ceste-net.org. The website can also be visited by guests.

(Username: guest/ Password: guest)
Petter Holm,
Ceste-Net Project Coordinator

ECSWE
Rue du Thrône
194
B-1040 Brussels
Belgium
*Registered in
Brussels*
ASBL 60732003
www.ecswe.org

Correspondence
ECSWE
Kidbrooke Park
Forest Row
East Sussex
RH18 5JA, UK
Tel. +44 1342
822115
ecswe@waldorf.net

The views expressed are those of the writers and are not necessarily those of ECSWE.

*ECSWE News is produced by
C. Clouder and C. Carones.
Design by C. Oertel*

Volunteering Opportunities for young people in Bolivia

My name is Simon Betts, aged 20, I studied in Waldorf Schools both in Hungary and in England. I am writing to you from Bolivia on behalf of a volunteer organisation named "Amigos del Hogar" where I have been working for the last six months. The organisation focuses on artistic activities, with programs in several state-run homes and institutes in the capital La Paz.

I worked in children's home, providing temporary care for children who have been maltreated, where the volunteers run activities each afternoon. The emphasis here is on offering the emotional support and love that the children lack, and the chance to express themselves artistically. Alongside this I worked at institutes for physically disabled and deaf people. The organisation also has programs in a home for girls with problems related to the law, and school for the deaf..

The need for help in all these homes is great, and there are wonderful opportunities here for young people just finished school, who seek new volunteer experiences.

Anybody interested could contact me:
sbetts@freemail.hu

Nordic-Baltic meeting in Helsinki, February 2008

In 2000 Nordic representatives of the ECSWE decided to create a regional council for the Nordic-Baltic area.

This year we met in Helsinki; representatives from Norway, Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and St. Petersburg were present.

The theme was "From human rights to civil courage" and we were happy to have a guest from the political world. Heidi Hautala from the Green Party, former MEP and now in the Finnish parliament came to talk to us about this theme. Her message was very clear: if more people had been more engaged, it would have been much easier for politicians. We need people to be more active. How can we teach our pupils to take initiative and care about their surroundings? She is herself active in the human rights movement in Russia and we learned about different organisations currently threatened with closure. It was an extremely interesting and positive meeting. This reminds us of the strong support for many of our ideas in different areas of society.

Christopher Clouder spoke about "The Waldorf school for the world and the world for the Waldorf school". He reminded us that every morning starts by saying: "We look into the world". We must not think and teach our children that the world is threatening. We need to meet with different people and not be deaf to the world.

It was clear that everyone at the meeting wished to come closer together, to have more cooperation and develop the schools further, especially the upper school. It was very inspiring to meet pupils from the Helsinki school who have been working with the climate question and the consequences for the Baltic Sea and Finland. One of the decisions taken was to work for a pupils' conference on the Baltic Sea in 2009. It would be held in Finland and research would be carried out on the sea. Pupils from all the countries will be invited.

After seven years of meeting we felt that something has happened between us; we felt very connected and encouraged to do something together to help our pupils to meet the challenges of the future.

Astrid Bjønness, Norway

32nd effe-Colloquium

From early childhood curiosity to early school leaving

Compulsory Education
Giving all young people a future

Tuesday 13 - Thursday 15 May 2008,
Brussels

For more information, please
contact Lies Feron:
feron@effe-eu.org