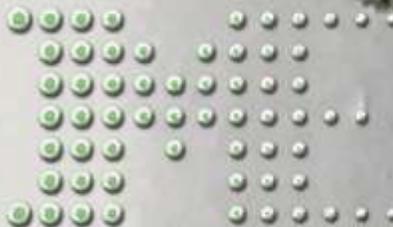


December 2017



Best wishes for 2018



montessorieurope

Dear members,

At the end of Chanouka and a few days before Christmas you receive the last Newsletter of 2017. In this short Newsletter you will find important information concerning the working groups.

The end of the year is always a time to reflect on the past and make plans for the future. The board will do this in a meeting at the end of January. Shortly afterwards we will announce our plans for the next congress and send the announcement for speakers and workshop proposals.

We hope that you will also take some time to think about your role as ME member. We need one another to make things better!

I wish you all a Happy New Year and lots of fresh ideas for our Montessori work.

Mirjam



Montessori Express

At the congress in The Hague Montessori Express collected a list of schools starting with exchange projects in 2018. The idea is to start with a set of 5-6 schools. The network of the participating schools will be made visible on a map on the website. We hope to spread the idea by a growing net of connected schools.

If your school would like to be part of the Montessori Europe map, take some time and add your

address and school name: <https://goo.gl/forms/RU85js1fp16ja4z23>

Contact addresses:

Eva Baekkel – eva.baekkel@montessori-europe.net

Christian Grune – christian.grune@montessori-europe.net

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Secondary education

Meeting at the 2017 congress

A small group met on the starting day of the congress and decided to prepare for the World Cafe the next day, hoping that more people would turn up there. This proved to be the case.

In the preparatory meeting it was decided that the Erdkinderplan would be a useful and practical topic to discuss both in its principles and in the practices used in secondary Montessori schools.

In small groups this was discussed at the World Café. The outcomes from the groups were in some respects very similar:

- It is useful to focus on common denominators between schools.
- It is important to discuss the goals behind the Erdkinderplan, such as practicing life skills and different roles, becoming independent of parents, being dependent on peers.
- Developing exchange and cooperation between a small number of schools could be a good starting point. The cooperation should be non-elitist, on a small scale and with a low threshold
- The cooperation could start from discussing philosophy/aims; then moving to criteria; next step could be collecting good practices and sharing them in presentations (e.g. Ted talks, YouTube). Attention should be paid to sustainable development as part of the curriculum.

The people who showed interest in cooperating will be mailed with the invitation to join in and prepare a meeting in March 2018.

Contact:

Michael Rubinstein – michael.rubinstein@montessori-europe.net

Improving Montessori practice through research.

Research Working Group

Recently a report was sent to all Montessori Europe members, that we would like to invite Montessori teachers and trainers to take an active part in the Research Group and at the next meeting in Sofia 2018, because educators are knowledgeable researchers performing different activities: doing classroom observation, writing an action research plan, conducting and reporting on research for their master or bachelor studies, etc.

CALL FOR IDEAS: How to spread out Montessori practitioners' reflective approach into self-study teacher research (action research, case study)? What do teachers need to organize small-scale research to improve their practice? The deadline is January 15th, 2018.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS: Contribute with your personal inputs: studies, summaries, abstracts reporting on a study/research you conducted to organize the next Research Group meeting in Sofia. Small-scale and local research can serve as an exemplification of "good educational practices", which perfectly blends with the theme of the Sofia congress: Inside the Montessori classroom. Inspiring best practices. The deadline is March 15th, 2018.

Contact address: Beata Bednarczuk

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You are invited to share all the other suggestions and ideas



Guidelines Working Group

Montessori Europe already has issued guidelines. These, however, are under used, awareness of their existence is low and there seems to be no clear consensus on their use and implementation. To help us to find consensual common ground we decided that to clearly identify what is available in Europe would be a start. In the New Year the guidelines group will outline the results of our fact gathering and present them on the Montessori Europe website. It is one step in the right direction and all members of the guidelines group were positive about getting this done.

There has been progress amongst all the main Montessori institutes and associations across the world to come together and work more closely to further our shared cause in Montessori. We in the guidelines group and in Montessori Europe want to play a positive role in this movement.

Contact address: Ken Healy ken@waterpark.ie

Montessori Europe Map

We had a lot of participants in our last Montessori Europe Congress in The Hague. Many of you expressed the wish to give Montessori Education a better visibility. We will do that by creating Montessori Europe Map. In order to create a map of Montessori schools, children's houses and training organisations at

www.montessori-europe.net, we need a real address of your school. We have prepared a form, where you can add your address and data.

If you want to be part of the Montessori Europe map, take some time and add your address and school name: <https://goo.gl/forms/RU85js1fp16ja4z23>

Your Montessori Europe board

