



montessorieurope

Montessori Europe Newsletter February 2018

Dear Members and friends of Montessori Europe,

I hope you are off to a good 2018! I wish for 2018 to be a beautiful year for Montessori Education in collaboration with our members.

In the Board meeting of January we discussed 'How to make Montessori Europe more visible and attractive for members?' For this meeting we invited Christian Willemsen of Nienhuis and he showed us interesting ideas from another point of view. It was a fruitful meeting and one of the outcomes is a new slogan: "We connect".

In this newsletter you will read about the different projects ME has commenced. Of course we started with the organization of our next Congress from 5th – 7th October 2018 in Sofia Bulgaria. We ask for your input and proposals for speakers and workshop leaders.

At the end of January I signed the Memorandum of Understanding of Montessori Europe and Montessori Model United Nations (MMUN). This agreement will provide an opportunity for our members to be involved in the work of MMUN through several workshops being hosted during the Congress in Sofia.

Over the last few weeks you may have come across information on Montessori Express, for example on Facebook. Montessori Express will start their tour in April visiting several Montessori secondary schools in Europe. Be sure to sign in to take part of this unique project!

And last but not least, the Montessori Europe Map. The map shows you Montessori houses, schools and institutes across Europe. It will be useful for making connections and should be a wonderful platform for collaboration.

Enjoy by reading the newsletter and please feel free to show your interest.

We connect!

Mirjam

Over the past few months we have started many initiatives to increase our visibility in Europe and the activity of our members. Here are the main topics...

Hop on the Montessori Express Bus..

...and join in on a road trip to secondary Montessori schools in Germany and Holland from 16th -26th April 2018. Now is the chance to see, experience and discuss the different ways the secondary stage of Montessori Education is developed in the Netherlands and Germany. Every morning we will start from Wageningen Bus Station at 8 o'clock to 5 Dutch schools (€ 30 per person per day) and 4 German schools (€ 40 per person per day). You can arrange your own 'expedition' for one or more days.

Read more information and the flyer on our website:

<https://montessori-europe.net/working-group/montessori-express/>

Registration was until 16th February as communicated earlier – if you would still like to register please use the registration link on the weblink above to ask for any available places.

We would like to thank Gabriel Enkelaar for his enthusiasm in organizing this event . Montessori Express would not be possible without him as the driving force behind it!

Montessori Europe Map is online

Thank you all for the huge participation to create a map of places for Montessori Education all over Europe – we got 132 responses and implemented a map on our website! This is ongoing and many places are still missing.

Please have a look and see for yourself:

<https://montessori-europe.net/montessori-in-europe/montessori-europe-map/>

You will find a form on our website, where you can add your school. We will update the map every month with new schools and organisations.

We connect Montessori Educators all over Europe

We have sharpened our mission to connect Montessori Educators and schools all over Europe. We will improve our website gradually to offer services and a place to really connect: 'We connect' is our main mission. We started with the working groups (you can find more information on our website) and created a map of Montessori places on our website. It is now possible to reach out to members and schools – more will follow in the next months.

Working Groups: <https://montessori-europe.net/working-group/introduction/>

Any ideas and suggestions are welcome!

Partnership with Montessori Model United Nations (MMUN)

In January ME President Mirjam Stefels and MMUN Chief Strategy Officer Judith Cunningham signed a memorandum of understanding in which they agree to actively promote and enhance one another's activities. Furthermore, MMUN will organize an MMUN Global Citizen Teacher Workshop during the next ME congress in Sofia.

The partnership will officially be for one year, but with the intention to prolong it after mutual agreement. ME is very happy to announce this partnership, the first of its kind.

Mirjam Stefels stated: "As a leading organization for Montessori teachers, teacher trainers and other interested parties in Europe we see the opportunities of our working together as a way to provide an even more international experience for our members and their students."

Judith Cunningham said: “We are excited to be working with ME, and now the door can be opened to more workshops and possibly even an international MMUN conference within the ME region.”

As a first step we are organizing MMUN teacher workshops as part of the next Montessori Europe’s Congress in Sofia! Stay tuned!

Montessori Europe Congress in Sofia

We have carefully evaluated the feedback from last year’s congress and can tell you: We’ve got your message: We need high quality workshops, interactive, inspiring content and activities at the congress. We hope to see you all in Sofia this year, **October 5th to 7th**. This year’s congress will be organized together with Montessori Institute Bulgaria. Most of the activities will take place in the Sheraton Sofia Hotel Balkan and the theme of the congress will be ‘Inside the classroom’. We are fixing the programme and activities in the coming weeks and will announce a call for proposals next month.

With Montessori Institute Bulgaria as our partner this year we are sure to organize an exciting event.

If you would like to propose inspiring speakers and workshop leaders, please let Christian Grune know before February 27th. We will prepare a call for papers in March with sub-topics and clear criteria to ensure high quality.

Annual General Meeting (AGM), October, 6th in Sofia

We will increase the available time for our AGM this year in Sofia. We will allocate not only time for election of new board members but also prepare a discussion about our core activities and to improve our activities between the congresses. As a start we will meet with all working groups in Berlin from March, 24th-25th and prepare input for the congress.

Have a nice time and stay tuned!

The Board of Montessori Europe

Mirjam Stefels, Beata Bednarczuk, Michael Rubinstein, Jörg Boysen, Eva Baekkel, Bojana Mikaric, Ken Healy and Christian Grune