

The history of founding Montessori Europe

Two organizational initiatives were started independently in 2000. One in Aachen, Germany called: „Europäisches Montessori Forum“ and the other in Dublin, Ireland named: „Initiative Montessori Europe“. The aim was to build a network of Montessori activities in Europe and to create an information channel for other countries.

2001: Fusion

More by accident the central Europe group found in the Internet an international group planning Europe wide Montessori activities like the „Europäische Montessori Forum“. The people who had organized that called themselves „Initiative Montessori Europe“. They came from Ireland (St. Nicholas Montessori College), Sweden (Swedish Montessori Institute), Norway (Waterpark Training Montessori on the Net). All three organizations worked in close co-operation with an international organization called „Modern Montessori International“ located in Great Britain. These members of these organizations already had had a conference in Dublin, Ireland (April 7.- 9. 2001) with a similar aim like the one which was to be held in Salzburg, Austria. The next meeting was planned for October 2001 to take place in Göteborg, Sweden. The idea of this meeting was to elect a committee.

The members of the organizations stayed in contact with the „Montessori Europe Forum“ and decided to cancel their follow up meeting in Göteborg, Sweden and to travel to the congress in Salzburg, Austria (September 7. -9. 2001) with nine members. The fusion of these different movements took place without any problems. About 100 people elected a “speaker-group” from the two initiatives. They also planned the next meeting to be held in 2002 in Lodz, Poland.



2002

On February 1st - 2nd, 2002 the “speaker-group” met in Stockholm, Sweden for a working session. Their goal was to talk about the upcoming meeting in Lodz, Poland (November 14. - 16. 2002).

In November 2002 the goals were defined and the preamble confirmed. The new organization should be called „Montessori Europe“ and the language should be English. At the same time a Swiss Montessori Teacher (Christopher Zanon) made a proposition for an organization Montessori Europe. The members agreed to review his proposal and also gave the “speaker-group” the competence and the task to include and discuss all open questions with Zanon.

2003 Setup of the official organization: Foundation of Montessori Europe

Mid-January 2003 the “speaker-group” and Mr. Zanon (Switzerland) met to discuss the open questions and to conclude the foundation of the organization „Montessori Europe“. On January 18, 2003 the foundation of „Montessori Europe“ took place in Bad Honnef, Germany.

The location of this organization is in Switzerland. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be in Vienna, Austria. (May 9th – 11th, 2003) The first Annual General Meeting of the members (AGM) will be held in Dublin, Ireland October 18th, 2003.

The Executive Committee consisted of the following foundation members:

- President: - Dr. Gudula Meisterjahn-Knebel, Germany
- Vice President - Clare Healy, Norway
- Secretary: - Aileen O'Brien, Ireland
- Executive Committee Members:
 - Dr. Malgorzata Miksza, Poland
 - Dr. Herbert Haberl, Austria
 - Rainer Völkel, Germany
 - Kristina S. Wennerström, Sweden
 - Britta Bring, Sweden