
The Alliance for Childhood
European Network Group aims at

**IMPROVING
THE QUALITY
OF CHILDHOOD
IN EUROPE**



Alliance for Childhood
European Network Group

Vision

European societies placing the quality of childhood in the centre of all their activities and thoroughly assessing the effects of their decisions on children.

Our Philosophy

When societies improve the quality of childhood, this would be beneficial for both the children and the societies in which they live. Policy makers and stakeholders develop policies with regard to children and the way that these are implemented depends on the **image of the child** that they hold. It is therefore very important to be aware of what this image is. For our activities we use the UN legal definition of the child, i.e. every human being below the age of eighteen years.

Within the Alliance for Childhood European Network Group (the Alliance) the image of the child we hold is as follows:

- Children are endowed with inner potential to grow, learn and communicate and to participate in their own way and with their own rights and responsibilities within society.
- The child is an agent of his/her own life in relation with others. The child is not an object to be pushed and modeled into a shape by the adult.
- Adults who are sensitive to children's needs are there to help unfold their uniqueness.
- The quality of the children's relationships with adults and other children affects their growth as human beings in either a positive or negative way.
- Children are co-creators of our world and transform it.
- Human development is a process of unfolding an individual's uniqueness in which mutually interacting biological, psychological, social, cultural, spiritual and societal factors interplay.

The quality of childhood has not a fixed definition because living contexts are different. Generally, a good quality of childhood refers to conditions that promote the child's positive development and well-being.

Our Mission

- To increase the respect for childhood as a basis for human development and to create awareness of the needs of all children.
- To develop and inspire ideas for solutions to those problems which could endanger the good quality of childhood.
- To provide a platform for contacts, inspiration, exchange, peer learning, encouragement and dialogue among policy makers, decision makers, researchers, practitioners, parents and all people that have an influence on children's lives.

Alliance for Childhood European Network Group & Working Group on the Quality of Childhood at the European Parliament

The Alliance was set up in 2006 by Michiel Matthes and Christopher Clouder, at that time Director of the European Council for Steiner Waldorf Education (ECSWE). In that same year the Alliance set up the **Working Group on the Quality of Childhood at the European Parliament (QoC)** together with the Austrian Member of the European Parliament Karin Resetarits.

The Alliance is supported by the Alliance for Childhood European Network Foundation, registered in Brussels under number 880102675. This foundation functions as the legal entity of the Alliance.

The Alliance has members (organizations and individuals) from over 15 European countries.

The Alliance has a Council of six members from different countries to support the Chairman in the establishment of the mission.

The Alliance is a member of the Learning for Well-being Community (L4WB) and a member of the global Alliance for Childhood, which was established in the United Kingdom in 1997.

Our Methods

MEETINGS

To hold meetings of members of the Alliance twice a year to discuss the activities of the Alliance and share new insights and initiatives regarding the quality of childhood. The members also brief each other on their activities and in this way new partnerships and coalitions are formed regarding certain themes and projects.

QOC TALKS

To regularly hold expert talks in the Working Group on the Quality of Childhood at the European Parliament (QoC Talks). Since December 2006 the Working Group has been holding QoC Talks every two months in the European Parliament in Brussels, 61 sessions in all by the end of 2016. So far some twenty MEPs from different parties have hosted these sessions. The Alliance dispatches the invitation for the expert talks to some 1,100 persons worldwide and also in this way conveys its mission to interested network members. From 2014 onwards the QoC Talks have been in partnership with the Universal Education Foundation (UEF) / L4WB, which is a member of the Alliance and also hosts a more informal session after the Parliamentary presentation.

BOOKS

To publish books on expert talks and invited papers; 6 volumes have been published from 2010 to 2016. Volume 1 to 4 were published with ECSWE, and volume 5 and 6 with UEF.

COLLABORATION

To collaborate with organizations that share the same vision and goals as the Alliance.

STIMULATE COOPERATION

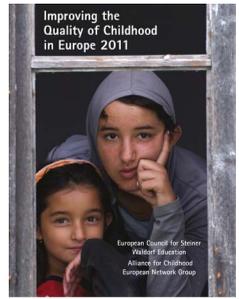
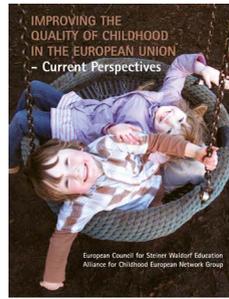
To stimulate cooperation in the European Parliament for the benefit of children such as the establishment of an (official) Intergroup on Children's Rights in December 2014.

Our Books

All books are sold via Amazon.co.uk.

All chapters are available for download:

www.allianceforchildhood.eu/publications



Themes covered by the QoC Talks at the European Parliament (2006-2016)

GENERAL FRAMEWORKS

A vision on children and childhood
The Rights of the Child
Ombudsmen for children
Learning for Well-being
European Academy for complementary pedagogy
Elham Palestine: an example of a multi-sector
national partnership
Quality of childhood, Romanian migrant workers
Quality of childhood and the present economic downturn
Measures for improving the quality of childhood
Prosperity without growth

EARLY EDUCATION

Improving the early childhood educational systems
Early childhood services
Early childhood education and care systems
Young children and their services

EDUCATION, CREATIVITY AND CULTURE

Improving education with systemic changes
The PISA study and lessons learned
Resilience and creativity in education
Social and emotional education
Literacy: reflection
Literacy: graphogame
A new pedagogical approach in education
Role of measurement and evaluation in good education
Rich educational and cultural programmes for all children

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

The city for children
The child in the city
The physical environment of the child
Children and their connection with nature

HEALTH

Mental health situation of children and young people
Toxic childhood syndrome
Preterm births
Physical development and later learning
Well-being indicators
Health assets

DEVELOPMENT IN CHILDHOOD AND ADOLESCENCE

Positive human development
Key competences of children and adolescents
Screen media
Digital environment
Multiple intelligence in the knowledge-based society
Media literacy / media addiction and the governance
in this respect

SOCIAL RELATIONS

Child-adult relationships in families and school
Attachment
Affection and a baby's brain
Child rearing: to help children to reach their unique potential
Parents' partnership stability and quality
Child's networks and neighborhood
City Councils for children
Successful integration of refugee and immigrant children
Empowering parents
Quality of childhood and Roma children

FAMILY STUDIES AND POLICIES

Developing a research agenda for families and family policies
The proposed research agenda for families and family policies
Family enrichment courses
Parental leave policies

ADOLESCENTS AND SOCIETY

Changes in adolescent development
Youth employment
Alcohol drinking
Early school leaving prevention: Inclusive systems across
education, health and social sectors
The effect of the great recession on Southern European children
and adolescents' wellbeing

CURRENT TRENDS AND THREATS

Commercialization of childhood
Genetically modified 'designer babies'

Impact of the Alliance for Childhood European Network Group on European Societies

The Alliance provides a space for reflection about the way that children are brought up in our societies, about the habits and practices that diminish the Quality of Childhood, and about ways that could improve it. In this domain a large group of experts and pioneers – from many European countries and beyond – have been brought together, and a vast body of knowledge has been gathered and made available to policy makers, practitioners, politicians and the public at large.

These activities have also had an impact on the members of the Alliance, and through them on the societies of which they are a part.

Finances of the Alliance for Childhood European Network Group

The Alliance is an organization that is run by activists and unpaid volunteers, and for this reason costs are kept low. The activities of the Alliance are financed by contributions from the member organizations. Furthermore, some subsidies were received from Community Playthings (2008), the Jean Monnet Programme of the European Commission (2009-2012, together with ECSWE), the Rabobank Foundation (2009) and the Bernard van Leer Foundation (2011).

Become a Member or Donor of the Alliance for Childhood European Network Group

The Alliance welcomes new members and donors, whether organizations or individuals.

CRITERIA FOR MEMBERSHIP

Adherence to the mission of the Alliance and a commitment to promote with the own organization or activity the goal of improving the quality of childhood, the well-being of children and the rights of the child as specified in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. An application for membership can be sent to the Council via the present Chairman.

SUGGESTED STRUCTURE FOR DONATIONS

Determined by the turnover of year before last:

Turnover	Donation per year
< € 100,000	€ 500
€ 100,000 – € 500,000	€ 1,000
> € 500,000	€ 2,000
Individual membership/donorship	€ 50

Contact us

ADDRESS

Michiel Matthes
Chairman of the Alliance for Childhood European Network Group
Konkelstraat 214, box 7
1200 Brussels, Belgium
+32 (0)2 762 25 57
michiel.matthes@allianceforchildhood.eu
www.allianceforchildhood.eu

BANK ACCOUNT

Alliance for Childhood European Network Foundation
IBAN BE25 7330 3331 5082
BIC KREDBEBB

