

# Improving the Quality of Childhood in Europe 2013

## VOLUME 4

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of the European Union.

This publication consists of talks given by a range of experts to The Quality of Childhood Working Group in the European Parliament.

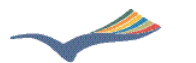
QoC was created in 2006 by the European Council for Steiner Waldorf Education (ECSWE), the Austrian Member of the European Parliament Mrs Karin Resetarits and the Alliance for Childhood European Network Group. Its aim is *"to improve the Quality of Childhood in the European Union and in the European educational space."*

It has been meeting every two months since 2006 in the Parliament building in Brussels and it has involved prominent organisations in Europe and high profile keynote speakers on important themes at European level that were related to its remit.



European Council for Steiner Waldorf Education  
Alliance for Childhood European Network Group

Editors: Belinda Heys  
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Education and Culture DG  
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## IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF CHILDHOOD IN EUROPE 2013

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The European Council For Steiner Waldorf Education (ECSWE) is a European organisation with 27 national Waldorf Associations, representing over 680 Steiner Waldorf schools in Europe. It is registered in Brussels as an AISBL (898707869) [www.ecswe.net](http://www.ecswe.net)



The Alliance for Childhood European Network Group (AFC-ENG) was created in 2006 with the aim of improving the "Quality of Childhood" in the European Union and is part of the Alliance for Childhood global network. [www.allianceforchildhood.eu](http://www.allianceforchildhood.eu)



The Fundación Botín has its head office in Santander (Spain). Its aims are educational, scientific, cultural and social. The Foundation contributes to the well-being and progress of society by investing its resources in education, developing an applied experience called *Responsible Education* to facilitate and foster emotional, cognitive and social development in childhood. [www.fundacionbotin.org](http://www.fundacionbotin.org)



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Editors:  
Belinda Heys  
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We also appreciate the contribution made by Denise Weiershaus, who assisted the AFC-ENG Secretariat preparing several chapters of the book.

We are grateful to all those who contributed to this publication and the time taken in supplying content to assist in its completion.

This book is the fourth in a series of publications about improving the quality of childhood in the European Union. The first book "*Improving the Quality of Childhood in the European Union – Current Perspectives*" (ISBN 1 900169 20 7) was published at the end of 2009, the second book "*Improving the Quality of Childhood in Europe 2011 Volume 2*" (ISBN 1 900169258) at the end of 2010 and the third volume "*Improving the Quality of Childhood in Europe 2012*" (ISBN 1 900 169 30 4) at the end of 2011.

*The books can be found on the ECSWE website:*  
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## IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF CHILDHOOD IN EUROPE 2013 VOLUME 4

This publication consists of talks given by a range of experts to the Working Group on the Quality of Childhood (QoC) at the European Parliament during 2011/2012 and persons that were invited to write a chapter because it would complement the contents of the book.

QoC was created in 2006 by the European Council for Steiner Waldorf Education (ECSWE), the Austrian Member of the European Parliament (MEP) Mrs Karin Resetarits and the Alliance for Childhood European Network Group (AFC-ENG). Its aim is "to improve the Quality of Childhood in the European Union and in the European Educational Space."

It has been meeting every two months since 2006 in the Parliament building in Brussels and it has involved prominent organisations in Europe and high profile keynote speakers on important themes at European level that were related to its remit.

During the European Parliament legislature of 2004 to 2009 the following Members of the European Parliament were members of QoC:

**Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (Alde Party)**  
MEP Karin Resetarits (Austria)

**Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament**  
MEP Rovana Plumb (Romania)  
MEP Adrian Severin (Romania)  
MEP Corina Cretu (Romania)

**Group of the Greens**  
MEP Hiltrud Breyer (Germany)

**Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats)**  
MEP Marie Panayotopoulos-Cassiotou, (Greece)  
MEP Livia Járóka (Hungary)

**Independence / Democracy Group**  
Kathy Sinnott (Ireland)

As of January 2013, the following Members of the European Parliament are participating in QoC:

**Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament**  
MEP Evelyn Regner (Austria)  
MEP Karin Kadenbach (Austria)  
MEP Judith Merkies  
MEP Corina Cretu (Romania)

**Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats)**  
MEP Livia Járóka (Hungary)

**Group of the Greens**  
MEP Gerald Häfner (Germany)

**Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (Alde Party)**  
MEP Edward McMillan-Scott (United Kingdom)

QoC coordination is carried out by Michiel Matthes, Chiara Carones and Patrice Sullivan.

The Working Group aims to be a think-tank for a 'peer learning' reflective activity on important childhood themes, in order to offer policy recommendations to EU Institutions and Member States on how to improve the quality of childhood and how to increase the quality and effectiveness of education and training systems in the EU.

The purpose of this fourth volume is to inform policy makers and other interested parties about current issues concerning childhood and adolescence. The speakers all include suggestions and approaches about how to go about improving the quality of childhood.

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