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POLICY NOTE WITH REGARDS TO THE DUTCH ANBI-APPLICATION

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The Alliance for Childhood European Network Foundation functions as the secretariat and the legal vehicle of the Alliance for Childhood European Network Group. The key elements of the organisation are mentioned below.

1. THE WORK UNDERTAKEN

1.1. THE 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.

1.2. THE 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.

1.3. THE 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

1.4. 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.

1.5. THE ACTUAL ACTIVITIES

The Alliance for Childhood undertakes the following activities:

Meetings

Under the auspices of the Alliance for Childhood various groupings meet:

1. The Board of the Foundation:

- One meeting per year in Baarn, The Netherlands between Michiel Matthes and Ruud Bakhuizen
- A skype meeting among the three board members.

2. The Council:

The Council has six members and convenes trice per year in Brussels, normally the first week of March and the second week of November. The Council is a policy making entity within the group.

3. The Alliance for Childhood Community meetings:

Open for all members and interested parties. Organised in conjunction with the Council meetings and the talks in the European Parliament. Normally two meetings per year.

Background information:

The Alliance holds twice a year meetings 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 in the European Parliament

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, 65 sessions in all by mid 2017. So far some twenty-five MEPs from different parties have hosted these sessions. The Alliance dispatches the invitation for the expert talks to some 1,800 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) / LAWB, which is a member of the Alliance and also hosts a more informal session after the Parliamentary presentation.

Books and brochure

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. Currently we work on the publication of Volume 7, which is expected to be published in 2018.

In January 2017 a brochure of the organisation was published.

Website

Maintaining of a website. All relevant information of the organisation and all books are published on the website www.allianceforchildhood.eu.

Collaboration

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

European Institutions and international conferences.

Members of the Secretariat and the Council participate regularly in meetings organised by the European Commission, in the European Parliament and international conferences elsewhere and bring forward at these occasions the views developed in the Alliance for Childhood and present the Alliance for Childhood books to key policy makers.

Stimulate cooperation of its members and partners

The Alliance for Childhood European Network Group is a network organisation and stimulates its members and partners to cooperate among themselves. In the Alliance meeting

in March 2017 an inventory was made in this respect and some 116 bilateral and multilateral cooperation relationships among the Alliance members could then be identified.

Other activities:

The administrative work of a foundation, i.e. the book keeping, preparing the financial statements, maintaining an office in Brussels, sending out invoices, keeping in touch with the 30 members, fund raising activities etc.

In general the secretariat functions as a think tank and the centre of a knowledge system regarding the quality of childhood in Europe.

2. FINANCES OF THE ALLIANCE FOR CHILDHOOD EUROPEAN NETWORK FOUNDATION

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).

Furthermore the founder and current chairman provides loans, if there are not enough funds.

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

3. THE MANAGEMENT OF THE FUNDS OF THE FOUNDATION

The funds of the foundation are kept in a bank account at KBC Brussels with IBAN Be25733033315082.

On 31 December 2016 the accumulated losses of the foundation were €84943,-. For the time being no interest has to be paid for these loans.

4. THE USE OF THE FUNDS OF THE FOUNDATION

The funds are used for the following purposes:

- To pay for the expenses of the secretariat, the internet, the website, telephone , the purchase of documentation, the bookkeeper etc.
- To pay for the organisation of the Alliance for Childhood meetings and the Council meetings;

- To pay to the sessions of the Working Group on the Quality of Childhood in the European Parliament. Often the travel expenses of the key-note speaker are paid, and in some cases he/ she will get a remuneration for holding the talk.
- The publication of the books.
- The participation in various meetings and conferences.
- To pay certain costs for holding the meeting of the board of the foundation.
- The pay membership fees, for instance of Eurochild.