



REPORT OF ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN IN 2016

Meeting board members

4 August: Michiel Matthes and Ruud Bakhuizen met in Baarn, the Netherlands.

Council of the Alliance for Childhood European Network Group

Two meetings were held, on 2 March the whole day and on 7 November in the morning.

Community Meeting of the Alliance for Childhood European Network Group

Meetings were held on 29 February and 1 March and on 7 November in the afternoon and on 8 November in the morning.

In the context of the Alliance for Childhood Community group Michiel Matthes has regular contact with the 30 member organisations, and occasionally participates in conferences of those members. Examples:

- 20 May: participation in the conference of Vlinderwijze / Briony Vanden Bussche in Brussels and Michiel Matthes giving a presentation.
- 13 and 14 October: The International Janusz Korczak Society held its conference in the Lage Vuursche, the Netherlands. The theme: 'trust, the foundation of emotional safety'. Michiel Matthes attended.
- 4 and 5 November: Conference held in Salzburg, Austria by the 'Mit Kindern Wachsen association'. The theme: 'Mit Kindern wachsen – Achtsamkeit in der Familie'. Michiel Matthes attended the conference.

Working Group on the Quality of Childhood at the European Parliament

The Alliance for Childhood European Network Group functions as the secretariat of the (informal) Working Group on the Quality of Childhood in the European Parliament (QoC). In this context the following QoC Talks were organised in 2016.

QoC Talks in 2016	
12 January 2016	56. 'Curious Minds: The English approach to offer rich educational and cultural programmes to all children and young people' with Derri Burdon. Host: MEP Julie Ward.
1 March 2016	57. 'Refugee and immigrant children and youngsters: some reflections on the successful integration of them in the receiving societies' with Professor Frosso Motti-Stefanidi, PhD and Lilana Keith. Host: MEP Caterina Chinnici.
26 April 2016	58. 'What constitutes good education and what are the roles of measurement and evaluation in it?' with Professor Dr. Gert Biesta. Host: MEP Liisa Jaakonsaari.

14 June 2016	59. What we can do to establish a good education and which new pedagogical approach we may propose? with Martine Reicherts, Director-General for Education and Culture in the European Commission. Host: MEP Julie Ward.
6 September 2016	60. 'Toward media literacy or media addiction?', contours of good governance for healthy childhood in the digital world' with Professor Dr. Paula Bleckmann. Host: MEP Julie Ward.
8 November 2016	61. 'How to empower parents for a better Quality of Childhood?' with Professor Ramón Flecha. Host: MEP István Ujhelyi

Meeting on 12 May with Professor Mathias Urban in London
 Michiel Matthes had a meeting with Professor Mathias Urban, at Roehampton University in London, UK.

This was a.o. a preparation for the QoC Talk that was held on 20 June 2017 in Brussels.

Liaising with the European Parliament and the European Commission

- 22 June: participation in a meeting of the Inter-Group on the Rights of the Child of the European Parliament
- 27 June: Michiel Matthes participated in Brussels in the Measuring Youth Well-Being (MYWEB) Policy Forum, organised by the European Commission.
- 29 June: Michiel Matthes participated in a workshop hosted by MEP Anna-Maria Corazza Bildt on 'Combating sexual abuse of children on the internet'. MEP Anna-Maria Corazza Bildt is the chairman of the Intergroup on children's Rights in the European Parliament.
- 30 August: meeting with MEP Hannu Takkula in the European Parliament.
- 27 September: Michiel Matthes participated in a meeting in the European Parliament entitled 'How to Protect Our Children in a Digital Environment?'
- 30 November-1 December: Conference organised by the European Commission entitled 'Great start in life! The best possible education in early years'. Several members of the Alliance for Childhood and the Learning for Well-being Community participated, but Michiel Matthes could not attend because of illness.

Conference in Luxembourg on 15 January 2016 entitled Pluralism in Assessment.

Two members of the Alliance for Childhood, i.e. ECSWE and the Learning for Well-being Foundation organised this conference and the Alliance for Childhood contributed also in various ways. Several persons from the Alliance for Childhood Community, including Michiel Matthes, participated in the conference. More information can be found via this link: <https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0B2kzPF6gE9aVWlc0dk9sUm9pUIU&usp=sharing>

Participation in meetings and conferences of the Learning for Well-being Foundation

- Learning for Well-being Community Meeting in Caux, Switzerland from 22 until 24 January 2016. The Alliance for Childhood is a partner of the Learning for Well-being Community and each year this Community gathers in Caux in January. Several people, including Michiel Matthes, Christopher Clouder, Clara Aerts, Lea Pulkkinen from the Alliance for Childhood participated in this conference.
- Various people of the Learning for Well-being and the Alliance for Childhood Communities, a.o. Michiel Matthes, participated in the CATS-Conference 2016 in Caux, Switzerland, which was held from 26 July until 1 August. For more information: <https://catsconference.com/cats-2016/>.
- 18-20 November: L4WB Core Practices Training organised by the Learning for Well-being Foundation in Brussels. Michiel Matthes attended.

Launch Event of the Youth News Foundation in Hotel The Grand in Amsterdam on 16 February 2016

Several members of the Alliance for Childhood Community, including Michiel Matthes, Daniel Kropf, Helma Brouwers and Elise Sijthoff participated in this event. For more information see <http://theyouth.org/> . It meant the start of a fruitful cooperation with Tako Rietveld, the founder and driving force of the Youth News Foundation. The Youth News Foundation became a member of the Alliance for Childhood.

Child Rights Action Group (CRAG) in Brussels.

The Alliance for Childhood is a member of the CRAG in Brussels. Michiel Matthes participated in the following meetings of this group in 2016:

3 March

13 December

For more information please follow the following link: <http://www.childrightsmanifesto.eu/>
The purpose of this group is to be a platform of all organisations in Brussels that work on the theme of children, childhood and children's rights and to speak with one voice vis-à-vis the Intergroup on Children's Rights of the European Parliament.

Publications by the Alliance for Childhood in 2016

The Alliance for Childhood published in November 2016 the book 'Improving the Quality of Childhood in Europe Volume 6' and worked on the publication of the brochure, which came out in February 2017.

Conference of HSBC in Brussels on 15 March 2016

HSBC stands for Health Behaviour in School-Aged Children. The conference was linked to the launch of their report entitled 'Growing up unequal: gender and socioeconomic differences in young people's health and well-being'. Michiel Matthes participated in the conference HSBC contributes with a chapter to the QoC Book Volume 7.

The Alliance for Childhood European Network Group participates in the International Platform of the Alliance for Childhood.

The partners in this group are:

- the Alliance for Childhood European Network Group in Brussels
- the [Alliance for Childhood in the USA](#)
- the Alliance for Childhood in the [UK](#)
- the [Alliance for Childhood in Brazil](#)

Every several months a skype meeting is held. In 2016 these meetings were on

24 February

22 March

28 June

16 August

5 September

29 November

The purpose of this platform is to stay connected, to inform each other on the progress we make, to help each other with contacts, inspiration, sometimes financially, and we build and financed together a website <https://www.alliancechildhood.org/>. Another important reason is to remain aligned philosophically.

In 2012 various people from the Alliance for Childhood group in Brussels participated in a conference in Washington, that was co-organised by the Alliance for Childhood group in the USA.

Activities to attract funding

25 May: Michiel Matthes visits the IONA stichting in Amsterdam.

1 November: telephone contact with Bernard van Leer Foundation.

Miscellaneous Meetings

11 July: Michiel Matthes attended a meeting at the UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre in Florence .

15 and 16 November: International workshop Facilitating Social Innovation: Appreciating critical junctures in multi-stakeholder processes for development, held at ECDPM, Maastricht, The Netherlands. Michiel Matthes participated.