



REPORT OF ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN IN 2017

Meeting board members

29 June: Michiel Matthes and Ruud Bakhuizen met in Baarn, the Netherlands.

On 4 October 2017 a meeting of the board via skype was held to approve the financial statements of 2016.

Council of the Alliance for Childhood European Network Group

Two meetings were held respectively on 6 March and on 6 November 2017 at Rue du Taciturne 42, 1000 Brussels. Both meetings were held in the morning.

General Meetings of the Alliance for Childhood European Network Group

General Meetings were held on 6 and 7 March and on 6 and 7 November 2017 at the above mentioned location. In the General Meetings all partners of the Alliance for Childhood are invited. In these meetings the Council presents its plans for the coming period and submits it for discussion and approval.

The Alliance for Childhood group has some 30 partner organisations and some 10 organisations with which it cooperates like Eurochild etc. In 2017 a survey was made to find out how many bilateral cooperation arrangements are taking place within this network and this turned out to be some 125.

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

- A Symposium was held in Driebergen, The Netherlands on 8 and 9 February 2017 and organised by two of its partner organisations, namely NIVOZ and the Learning for Well-being Foundation. The title of the conference was 'Unfolding human potential'. There were some 150 participants of which some 20 from the Alliance for Childhood Community group. Participation was on invitation only.
- On 15 June 2017 Professor Lea Pulkkinen organised a conference in Helsinki at the occasion of a book launch. The title of the conference was 'For the Best of a Child'. In this conference professor Pulkkinen brought together her Finnish network and her friends from the Alliance for Childhood. Some ten representatives from the Alliance group attended the event. The title of her book was '*Human development from middle childhood to middle adulthood: Growing up to be middle-aged*'. It was published by Routledge in London in 2017. There was also a programme on 16 June to visit a

school is Espoo and Nickel van der Vorm of NIVOZ had arrived earlier to have some bilateral discussions with various experts.

- On 28 November various partners of the Alliance for Childhood participated in the conference organised by ELIANT that was given the title 'Towards a healthy digital ecosystem: values, competences & responsibilities'. It took place in the Royal Library of Belgium in Brussels. Michiel Matthes had participated in a preparatory meeting for this conference in Brussels on 11 May.

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 2017.

10 January 2017	62. Children with imprisoned parents: 'How to support children to cope with their parent's imprisonment and enhance their potential to lead safe, included, happy, achieving lives?' with Kate Philbrick and Hannah Lynn from 'Children of Prisoners Europe' (COPE) network. Host: MEP: Julie Ward.
7 March 2017	63. 'Innovation in Education, Improving Learning & Well-being' with Professor Dr. Els Laenens. Host: MEP József Nagy.
11 April 2017	64. 'Primary Health Care for Children in Europe. Similarities and Differences between Countries - what do they Mean? Interim findings of the Models Of Child Health Appraised (MOCHA) Horizon 2020 Project ' with Professor Michael Rigby and Dr. Denise Alexander. Host: MEP Hannu Takkula.
20 June 2017	65. The pros and cons of OECD's International Early Learning Study (IELS, or Baby PISA) with Rowena Phair and Professor Mathias Urban. Host: MEP Mary Honeyball.
5 September 2017	66. Art education promotes the development of the child and society with Dr. Eeva Anttila. Host: MEP Julie Ward.
7 November 2017	67. 'The new educational curriculum in Finland, goals, underlying values, guiding principles and how and why it was brought about' with Irmeli Halinen. Host: MEP Hannu Takkula.

Liaising with the European Parliament and the European Commission

- 27 January : participation by Michiel Matthes in a conference organised by Femmes d'Europe, which took place in the Barleymont Building of the European Commission.
- the Transparency Register of the European Commission and the European Parliament was updated in April 2017 for the Alliance for Childhood so that Michiel Matthes was given again a permanent access badge for the European Parliament.
- 20 November. Michiel Matthes and Daniel Kropf participated in the meeting of the European Parliament Intergroup on Children's Rights. The theme: 'The Europe we want'.

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

- Learning for Well-being Community Meeting in Caux, Switzerland from 13 until 15 January 2017. Some 40 persons participated in this event of which about half in one way or another partner of the Alliance for Childhood.
- Training meeting on decision making processes held in Brussels from 23 until 25 October. Michiel Matthes participated.

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 2017:

20 January

22 June

14 September

5 October

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 January 2017 its brochure 'Improving the Quality of Childhood in Europe', which can be found on the Home Page.

Professor Pulkkinen, Christopher Clouder and Michiel Matthes spent much time in 2017 on drafting and editing the book 'Improving the Quality of Childhood in Europe, volume 7'. It is expected to be published in the autumn of 2018.

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 2017 these meetings were on

21 February

23 May

22 August

28 November face-to-face in the margin of the ELIANT conference held in Brussels.

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.

Website:

The Alliance for Childhood received support from Sivi Talvensola from Koske Keski-Suomen in Finland to keep the website up-to-date. In November 2017 the website had to be moved to another host and we have chosen for this Cloudways in Malta.

Secretariat of the Alliance for Childhood

The secretariat was taken care of in 2017 by Michiel Matthes.

Miscellaneous Meetings

- Michiel Matthes participated in the General Assembly of Eurochild in Brussels on 5 April.
- On 18 April Michiel Matthes had a meeting in Utrecht to make acquaintance with ESHA (European Schools Heads Association) and to discuss a liaison with this organisation.
- European Council for Steiner Waldorf Education (ECSWE) is taking the lead regarding a project called Assessment. This group was formed at the Caux event in January. On 6 September a follow up meeting took place in which Michiel Matthes participated.
- Anniversary meeting of the NGO Common Ground on 14 September in Brussels. Michiel Matthes participated in this event.
- Michiel Matthes had on 22 September a meeting with Diederik van Iwaarden of the University of Utrecht to discuss a liaison of his organisation with the Alliance for Childhood.
- Book Launch event of the new book by Luuk van Middelaar on 4 October at the Dutch Embassy in Brussels. Herman van Rompuy was the first speaker to introduce the theme and then Luuk van Middelaar shared some insights about his new book entitled 'De nieuwe politiek van Europa'.