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This publication consists of talks given by a range of experts to the Working Group on the Quality of Childhood at the European Parliament (QoC) and invited papers. All chapters contained in this volume are available for download on the website of the Alliance for Childhood European Network Group: www.allianceforchildhood.eu/publications

IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF CHILDHOOD IN EUROPE

VOLUME 7

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Editors: Michiel Matthes, Lea Pulkkinen,
Christopher Clouder, Belinda Heys



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The Learning for Well-being (L4WB) Foundation vision is a world where everyone fulfills his or her unique potential. Its purpose is to research, cultivate and promote capacities of adults and children – and their communities – to make decisions and take actions that serve themselves, others, and their environments. It fulfills its purpose by carrying out activities which aim at transforming ourselves, transforming the relationships between children and adults who support them, transforming societies and expanding research. The Foundation was set up in 2004 as a non-profit organisation and is registered in The Netherlands. www.learningforwellbeing.org



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PREFACE

It is with great pleasure that we present the seventh volume in the series *Improving the Quality of Childhood in Europe*, and the third volume to be jointly published by the Alliance for Childhood European Network Group and the Learning for Well-being Foundation (formerly called the Universal Education Foundation).

We represent the two organisations which work together to hold the sessions of the Working Group on the Quality of Childhood (QoC) in the European Parliament, which we call QoC Talks, and the dialogues after these sessions, which we call Post QoC sessions. Today we have held these talks every two months since December 2006, i.e. in total 69 times. This volume is based on ten QoC Talks during the period May 2015 to November 2017. In addition one author (Dr. Agata D'Addato) was specifically invited to contribute a chapter to this book.

The motivation of the Alliance for Childhood European Network Group is to find ways of improving the quality of life in society which are beneficial for children and adolescents and also for the societies in which they grow up. The motivation of the Learning for Well-being Foundation / Learning for Wellbeing Community is that it believes that these activities, aimed at improving the quality of childhood in Europe, will render our societies more inclusive and supportive, where children, young people and adults respect each other as competent partners and learn how to realize their unique potential throughout their lives.

We believe that when a group of experts and advocates engages in disciplined thought about a certain subject this will eventually result in positive outcomes such as increasing awareness of and discussion about current issues.

The chapters in the book have been written by authors of nine different nationalities. Each author looks at the subject of children and childhood from a different perspective and together they provide the reader with a rich kaleidoscope of new insights, new ideas for action and new prompts for forming alliances with other parties to bring about the necessary change. Every author's biographical data can be found after each chapter. The British and American English spelling may vary in this book depending on the background of the author. All chapters can be downloaded from the website: www.allianceforchildhood.eu

Many people have contributed to the production of this book. Firstly, our thanks go to the Members of the European Parliament, who have hosted and supported the QoC Talks:

MEP Maria Arena

Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament, Belgium

MEP Caterina Chinnici

Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament, Italy

MEP Kostas Chrysogonos

Confederal Group of the European United Left – Nordic Green Left, Greece

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Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament, UK

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Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe, Finland

MEP Julie Ward

Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament, UK

MEP Jana Zitnanska

European Conservatives and Reformists Group, Slovakia

Many thanks go to the authors of the chapters for sharing their knowledge about their subjects with you, our readers. We also thank the team of editors and all the people who have attended our meetings and contributed to our discussions. Now we invite you to read and enjoy Volume 7 in the series *Improving the Quality of Childhood in Europe*.

Michiel Matthes

Chairman
Alliance for Childhood European Network Group

Daniel Kropf

Executive Vice Chair
Learning for Well-being Foundation

Brussels, August 2018

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