

IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF CHILDHOOD IN EUROPE 2011

VOLUME 2



The European Council For Steiner Waldorf Education (ECSWE) is a European organisation with 27 national Waldorf Associations, representing over 670 Steiner Waldorf schools in Europe. It is registered in Brussels as an AISBL (898707869)
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.
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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



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Belinda Heys
Michiel Matthes
Patrice Sullivan

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ECSWE and AFC-ENG would like to record appreciation to the European Parliament for hosting the Working Group on the Quality of Childhood and particularly to MEP Rovana Plumb, MEP Evelyn Regner, MEP Karin Kadenbach, MEP Livia Járók, MEP Gerald Häfner and who are hosting the group at the moment. We would also like to thank all the MEPs who support the QoC Working Group.

We also appreciate the contribution made by Susanne Müller-Hübsch, who assisted the AFC-ENG Secretariat in many ways over the past year.

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 second 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. It contains perspectives on childhood from the following authors:

Richard Bowlby, John Bennett, Christopher Clouder, Boris Cyrulnik, René F.W. Diekstra, Steen Hildebrandt, Jesper Juul, Ferre Laevers, Martina Leibovici-Mühlberger, Geseke Lundgren, Michiel Matthes, Peter Moss, Luc Stevens, Hans van Crombrugge and Michel Vandenbroeck.

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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 2009/2010.

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:

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 Járók (Hungary)

Independence / Democracy Group

Kathy Sinnott (Ireland)

As of October 2010, 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 Rovana Plumb (Romania)
MEP Adrian Severin (Romania)
MEP Corina Cretu (Romania)
MEP Evelyn Regner (Austria)
MEP Karin Kadenbach (Austria)

Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats)

MEP Livia Járóka (Hungary)

Group of the Greens

Gerald Häfner (Germany)

QoC coordination is carried out by Michiel Matthes, Christopher Clouder, 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 second 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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Children play under Autumn leaves

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