



European Co-operation
in Anthroposophical Curative Education
and Social Therapy

Exclusive Inclusion

about ECCE, curative education
and inclusion



What is ECCE?

- **E**uropean **C**ooperation in anthroposophical **C**urative **E**ducation and Social Therapy was founded in 1992.
- Represents persons with special needs and protects their interests at the European level from an anthroposophical perspective.
- Members: umbrella organizations representing about 450 professional organizations and parents' associations in 18 European countries.
- A wide range of facilities, including education, work, community-based services, family support, home help, vocational training.
- Cooperates actively with other European NGO's in the field of support for persons with a disability.



Viewpoints ECCE

Persons with a disability have the right to:

- participate in society to their individual potential.
- live an individually chosen life-style in a surrounding that enables and supports personal development.
- living conditions, education and therapy suited to their individual potential.



United Nations Convention on the rights of Persons with Disabilities - UNCRPD

- Inclusion: persons with and without disabilities finding with each other their own path in inclusive society.
- Inclusive education – so children get accustomed to friends with a disability.
- Culture change - requires perseverance and patience.
- Inclusion is quite a general human task!



Main points UNCRPD

- Persons with a disability are free to make their own choices and are to be respected for who they are. Everyone should have equal opportunities and be treated equally by the law.
- Disabled persons have the same rights to be included in society as anybody else.
- Giving accessible information to disabled people about the things that will help them.
- All countries who ratified the Convention promise to do as much as they can afford to make sure disabled persons have equal access to things like housing, education and health care and should make sure that disabled people actually do get treated equally.



Ahead of its time

- In curative education and social therapy it is from **1924** recognised that education, working or living are beneficial to all individuals involved and to society as a whole. This approach is based on the image of man as described by Rudolf Steiner (1861-1925).
- All human beings have the right to contribute to society through work. Persons with special needs are no exception.
- Giving and receiving care, support and guidance is part of every day life. It is the foundation of a lively interaction between people, enriching society, and adding value to the quality of life. It establishes a relationship of responsibility between individuals, with or without special needs. Care and support should be an integral part of the life of the individual, because it enhances his or her quality of life.
- Curative education and social therapy is Sustainable Inclusion.



Congresses and projects ECCE

- Every ECCE congress has been opened by or on behalf of the current EU Commissioner of Social Affairs.
- ECCE has been responsible for several EU programs executed by its members.
- ECCE sympathizes with the independent initiative 'Living in the Encounter', founded in 1998. The initiative inspired and (co)organized 6 European congresses with and for persons with a disability and several congresses in other continents.
- ECCE supports the first World congress organized by 'Living in the Encounter', in Yekaterinburg (RU), September 2017.
- The actual project is 'Building Bridges', to strengthen international partnerships between all members.
- ECCE was one of the founders of ELIANT and supports warmly the cooperation of European anthroposophical NGO's.



National parents' associations

- Last but not least: ECCE stimulates actively the founding of national parents' associations in European countries.
- Those associations are a powerful instrument to voice the opinions of persons with a disability for freedom of choice in a diverse society.
- Thanks to the parents' organizations ECCE can bring the viewpoints developed in curative education and social therapy under the attention of decision makers in the EU.