

**NEWSLETTER – INFOBRIEF – NEWSLETTER –
INFOBRIEF
05/2010**

Dear **effe**-members,

Our colloquium is now behind us and we can now look back on what was, according to feedback from many participants, a very successful conference. We hope that with this newsletter you'll have some information about the event and be able to get an idea of what went on.

And of course, we wish you all a very happy Advent (the weather is certainly right for this time of year!)

Theme of the Newsletter:

- **Effe's colloquium "For a Healthy School", 18th-20th November 2010**
- **"The Third "European Stakeholders' Forum" 28th-29th October 2010**
- **News from effe in Brussels**
- **Training program Freinet-Certificate**

effe's Colloquium "For a Healthy School", 18th-20th November 2010

The European Forum for Freedom in Education's (effe) 34th Colloquium "For a Healthy School: Sustainability and Responsibility in Education and Health Promotion" took place from the 18th-20th November 2011 at the University of Witten/Herdecke in Germany. Lectures, speeches, workshops and discussion groups were spread across the three days, each dealing with a particular aspect or topic regarding the topic of health in schools. Participants and speakers from all over Europe and from a variety of professional backgrounds

guaranteed an interesting and lively conference.



Anne Liekenbrock, Director of effe and Ingo Krampen, Chair of the Board of effe opening the colloquium

The topic of health in schools is a broad and complex one. To use the World Health Organisation's definition of health as a starting point - "*Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity*"¹ - it is clear that health is multi-faceted concept which goes far beyond the boundaries of just a physically healthy body. It was on this note that the conference began with a welcome from Anne Liekenbrock, Director of *effe* and Ingo Krampen, the Chair of the Board of *effe*, both of whom underlined the importance of a holistic approach when dealing with issues like education and health. Alongside the enormous importance of a healthy school environment to the health and development of a child, the broader community that exists alongside the children also needs to be taken into account. This was one of the reasons why issues surrounding teachers' and parents' health were included in the conference. Fiona Carnie, Vice-President of *effe* reiterated the organisation's commitment to promoting freedom in all aspects of education. Without a healthy body, a healthy mind, or a healthy school community, education can neither be effectively delivered nor received.

The Head of Schools in Witten, Frank Scheppe, and the CEO of the University Witten/Herdecke, Prof. Dr. Butzlaff, opened the colloquium with a short welcome.

A highlight of the *effe* conference was the opening address from Sylvia Löhrmann, the Minister for Schools and Further Education and Deputy Prime Minister of North Rhine-Westphalia. It was a delight and an honour to hear her speak. Mrs. Löhrmann, who comes

¹ Constitution of the World Health Organisation, Introduction.

from a teaching background herself, was particularly interested by the theme of the conference and wished us well in our discussions. The panel discussion that followed, moderated by Nana Göbel², with four guest speakers from various professional backgrounds (Peter Steinle³, Inga Page⁴, Margaret Rasfeld⁵, Dr. Tomáš Zdražil⁶), was a chance to present and discuss different practices and policies in place in various schools which aim to create healthy school environment. It was noted that there are few other issues which manage to bring together so many areas of policy and interested parties more so than health. After sharing some policies and initiatives from different countries, the first day of the *effe* colloquium came to a close.



Sylvia Löhrmann, Minister for Schools and Further Education and Deputy Prime Minister of North Rhine Westphalia delivering the opening address

The Friday opened with a very engaging and thought-provoking lecture from Dr. Martin Straube⁷ on "*Education and*

² Board Member of *effe*

³ Advisory Member of the Hannoverschen Unterstützungskasse, Managing Director

⁴ Chair of the Governors at Park School in Devon, Programme Director at Schumacher College

⁵ Teacher, Leadership of the Protestant Interdenominational School, Berlin

⁶ Lecturer at the "Freie Hochschule Stuttgart", Germany

⁷ Consultant, Lecturer, Author and Doctor

Health from a Humanistic approach". He used his lecture to explain the different elements of a person's character and how, when out of balance, they can lead to physical, mental or emotional illnesses. After Dr. Straube's lively lecture and a few questions from the floor, the colloquium continued with three shorter lecturers on three different aspects of health in schools.

Dr. Inge Flehmig⁸ picked up on this theme of balance in children of a pre-school age in the first of three 'speed lectures'. She advocated an improved environment for teachers where the speed at which things are achieved should take second place to quality time shared between the teacher and the learner as well as high quality teaching content. Only then can a child, who is physically and emotionally balanced, realise his or her potential; every child is different and every child will mature at his or her own pace.

Julian Stanley⁹ introduced the organisation, "The Teacher Support Network" from the U.K. in the second 'speed lecture'.



Inee Page and Julian Stanley

to today, he presented pertinent case-

⁸ Head of the Centre for Child Development, Hamburg

⁹ Chief Executive, Teacher Support Network

study examples of what happened when suffering teachers did not receive the necessary support. Teacher health, well-being and effectiveness can improve pupil outcomes as well as save enormous amounts of money currently being spent on cover work.

The final issue explored by Prof. Dr. Heymann¹⁰ in the third 'speed lecture' was "critical approaches to testing in



schools including the PISA study". With so many teachers attending the conference and 'testing' having just been cited by Julian Stanley and Dr. Inge Flehmig as one cause of stress amongst teachers and students alike, this was a highly engaging presentation. Through a series of different arguments, we explored the positives and negatives of testing alongside the possible consequences of under- or over-testing students. Prof. Dr. Heymann acknowledged the value of tests as long as we are aware of their limits and fallibilities.

Refreshed post-lunch, participants split up into their respective Workshop groups which sought to deal with 'best practices' for the rest of the day. Topics included nutritional education (Paula Stille¹¹), exercise and sport (Gerlinde

¹⁰ Professor of Education at the University of Siegen, Germany

¹¹ Consultant, Specialist in Strategic Communication 'aid infodienst'

Idler¹²), conflict resolution (Dr. Ingeborg Meinel¹³), the Health Schools Programme in the U.K. (Fran Stanfield¹⁴) and the dangers of, and health promotion using the internet (Maité Debry¹⁵ and Barbara Schwarzenbacher¹⁶). This was an opportunity for participants to pursue an area of their interest in greater detail and to interact with those hosting the workshops and other participants. The different workshops were very successful and participants were introduced to interesting ideas which they were then able to take away with them.



Rechts: Eva Becker, President effe

The final day of the conference began with participants dividing into different-Discussion Groups. Prof. Dr. Peter Paulus¹⁷, Dr. Johannes Probst¹⁸ and René Clarijs¹⁹ led discussions on their respective topics of “*Health Promotion in European schools*”, the “*Communal network for Nutrition and Exercise in the town of*

St. Georgen, Germany”, and “*Non-formal Education and Health*”. The groups analysed some existing policies and initiatives, looked at the issue of sustainability by involving those in the local community and ways to increase participation in civic society. The discussions were extremely interesting, not least due to the broad range of experiences and nationalities of those taking part.

The closing lecture was held by Christof Wiechert²⁰ on “*Holistic Education and Sustainability for Health*”. He listed five main conditions which he believed are required in order to foster resilience in a child; a reliable, stable relationship with one person, experience of an authoritative (not authoritarian) upbringing, experience of learning through example, a qualitative experience of time and finally a surplus of positive school experiences. These five points were explained by Mr Wiechert in greater detail and provoked some interesting questions and reflections.

It was a full but certainly worthwhile conference, Eva Becker, president of *effe*, stated in the concluding words of the conference. A great deal of thanks goes out to the speakers and contributors to the conference who made this possible. Each brought with them an enormous wealth of knowledge and experience and it was pleasure to hear them speak. *effe* would also like to thank those at the University of Witten/Herdecke, GLS Treuhand Stiftung and those who were instrumental in the conception, planning and organisation of the conference.

¹² Teacher, Waldorf School, Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany

¹³ Freelance Consultant in Communication and Conflict Management

¹⁴ “*Healthy Schools*” Coordinator for West Hampshire

¹⁵ Project Administrator at European Schoolnet (EUN)

¹⁶ Project Administrator at European Schoolnet (EUN)

¹⁷ Professor of Psychology, Institute for Psychology at Leuphana University Lüneburg, Germany

¹⁸ Family Doctor

¹⁹ Author, Researcher, Consultant, Chief Editor

²⁰ Teacher, Speaker

"The Third "European Stakeholders' Forum" 28th-29th October 2010

The Third European Stakeholders' Forum took place from the 28th – 29th October in Brussels and was organised by the European Commission with the support of the "European Civil Society Platform on Lifelong Learning" (EUCIS-LLL) and the "European Youth Forum" (EYU). This event was part of the ongoing consultation process²¹ launched by the Commission between themselves and active partners in the education and training sector; a similar event has taken place annually since 2008. It was an opportunity for numerous organisations from across Europe to come and discuss a range of issues in the area of education and training.

The Director of Directorate-General for Education and Culture (DG EAC), **Pierre Mairesse**, made the opening speech of the conference, outlining the increased importance of education and training following the financial crisis. The goals of reducing the school drop-out rate to 10%, to ensure that 40% of young people have a degree or equivalent and to reform the higher education system are familiar ones that can be found in the 'Europe 2020' and other European Commission papers relating to education (see *effe's* October 2010 Newsletter). He explained how the Commission will be closely examining existing and future initiatives in general contribute to attaining these objectives and he urged the stakeholders' to bear this in mind during the discussion. Building on past successes, he explained how new solutions and partnerships should be sought

whilst exploring other mechanisms to fund programmes.

Following Monsieur Mairesse's address, members of the various organisation (around seventy-five were represented) split off into small discussion groups for the 'World Café' to discuss the future of the



GD Bildung und Kultur

Programm für lebenslanges Lernen

programmes under the Lifelong Learning umbrella, their future priorities and issues relating to their implementation and sustainability. These programmes included the Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP) such as Erasmus, Leonardo Da Vinci, Comenius, Grundtvig and the programme, 'Youth in Action'²². Debates were lively and many different points of view and perspectives were put forward. Common and recurrent themes amongst the participants were the need for adequate and sustained funding for programmes, the need to properly disseminated information about programmes to ensure equity of access, the simplification of the application process as well as the importance of a learner-centred approach towards education and training rather than a strictly economic approach.

The following day participants again split off into separate working groups, each to discuss either a specific programme or an individual aspect of a programme under Lifelong Learning. Discussion topics included 'Erasmus Mundus'²³ (the EU's international higher

²¹ See: http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/education_culture/consult/index_en.html

²² See: http://ec.europa.eu/youth/youth-in-action-programme/doc74_en.htm

²³ See: http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus_mundus/programme/about_erasmus_mundus_en.php

education exchange programme), 'Youth in Action' as well as the mobility, projects, partnerships and policy development and management simplification of the LLP. There were specific issues raised about each subject but general areas of shared support began once more to emerge which echoed those from the previous day.

- programmes need to be inclusive, easy to access and sufficiently funded;
- awareness of programmes under Lifelong Learning should be increased;
- there should be an established and inclusive dialogue between policy makers, stakeholders and participants;
- best practices and proven, successful programmes should be implemented;
- validation/recognition of non-formal and informal learning should continue;
- there should be an increased focus on the learner and learning environment;
- application processes need to be revised and wherever possible, simplified



To close the forum, three directors from the Commission's Directorate-General for Education and Culture addressed the participants. Hélène Clark (Director of Directorate

B "LLL: policies and programme") saluted the success of the programmes under Lifelong Learning by pointing out that since their creation, over one million people and over fifty thousand organisation have taken part. She highlighted the Commission's objective to

increase mobility, citing the Commission's 'Youth on the Move'²⁴ initiative as a means of achieving it. And she wished to voice her support for the greater inclusivity of all members of society in these programmes for Lifelong Learning. She added that simplification is a goal shared by the Commission and said that the Stakeholders' comments regarding dissemination of information shall be taken into account.

Gregory Paulger (Director of Directorate E "Youth and Sport") devoted the majority of his time to outline to the forum the difficult realities regarding the next European Budget. 'Youth in Action' programmes have proven popular with an increase in application of 16%. However, following the financial crisis and the pressure from some EU member states to curtail EU spending, there will now be significant budgetary restraints. He warned that the future of programmes may be difficult and little could be guaranteed. These two factors combined mean that more people are having to be turned away from the programme and will therefore not receive the funding they desire. He appreciates the essential contribution that non-formal and informal learning make towards an individual's employability and urged Stakeholders to take part in the Commission's on-going consultation process.

Though time was by now running short, **Jordi Curell Gotor** (Director of Directorate C "LLL: higher education and international affairs") reiterated the challenging budget circumstances before picking up on a couple of issues raised by the Workshop Group 1 which dealt with Erasmus Mundus. In response to a couple of the follow-up questions from

²⁴ See: http://ec.europa.eu/education/yom/com_en.pdf

the floor the panel of Directors asked actors, that is to say those involved with the programmes, to reflect on how can more can be done for less; how quantity may be increased whilst maintaining quality.

effe was pleased to have participated in this very constructive conference. It was pleasing to see so many different stakeholders and organisations represented from across Europe and from such a broad and diverse range of backgrounds. *effe* greatly appreciated the considerable presence of members from the



EUCIS-LLL

European Commission and especially DG EAC who attended the conference throughout the two days. As one of the best opportunities for smaller organisations to have direct contact and participate in a dialogue with the European Commission, *effe* hopes that the Stakeholders' Forum will continue to take place and further strengthen this line of communication. Considering the numerous proposals and opinions expressed throughout the forum, *effe* looks forward to seeing to what extent the conclusions and outcomes of the conference are taken into account by the policy-makers of the European Union.

News from *effe* in Brussels

effe answered two consultations of the European Union in the areas "Youth in Action" and "Lifelong Learning Programme". The conclusions will be published on the website of the Directorate General Education and Culture in the coming months. We will keep you informed.

Training program Freinet-Certificate

Eagles do not use stairs
(Célestin Freinet)

The Freinet-Kooperative offers a two-year in-service training program for the advancement in theory and practice of Freinet pedagogy under the patronage of Enja Riegel.

The training program aims at qualifying the participants to teach in terms of Célestin Freinet's pedagogy. Not superseding a state certified teacher training college, the program is a comprehensive in-service training, granting a certificate at the end.

The introduction and the first course will take place from 19.10. - 23.10.2011.
More information and registration:



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Closing date: 15. April 2011

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