



European Forum for Freedom in Education
Europäisches Forum für Freiheit im Bildungswesen

www.effe-eu.org contact@effe-eu.org

Dear members of *effe*,

You have not heard from us in a while. A lot has happened in the meantime, but we are looking into the future full hope, especially towards the colloquium in Berlin in November 2012. We would like to see all of you there. We will provide more information as soon as possible.

Unfortunately the application for financial support from the EU for 2012 has been turned down, so our office in Brussels had to be closed for the present.

The effe-board would like to continue its work through intensive communication with the members. Please regard our respective announcements. We are looking forward to continuing successful cooperation.

Best regards from Dortmund

Elisabeth Köpke

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Colloquium and General Meeting November 9th—10th, 2012 in Berlin

We are happy to announce the next effe-colloquium. It will take place on November 9th-10th in the Evangelische Schule in Berlin. We want to work on various questions dealing with the subject „Inclusion“. The working title is: „How does Inclusion revolutionize Education? - With practical examples from various European countries“

Invitations will be sent to you after the summer break.

After the colloquium we will hold a General Meeting on November 10th. We are looking forward to your attendance.

Proposal for a work-program for the *effe*

In a meeting at the beginning of June the board has formulated the below-mentioned goals for *effe* and has made a list of the resulting spheres of work.

All members are highly welcome to participate with the below-mentioned projects. Please give us your feedback:
contact@effe-eu.org

Effe means:

- Freedom for designing/Forming education in Europe
- Educational justice
- Plurality and diversity in education
- Network and intercommunion between the participating acteurs (schools, countries, EU)

Topics/aims	Work-programs	projects	Contact persons/ participants/partners
Cultural exchange	Creativity Media	Project about fairy tails Pupils-exchange Networks between schools	Dirk Höflich, Johanna Keller, Ole Pedersen
Policy within education	EU-themes Networking	EU-work in Brussels Colloquia	Johanna Keller, Ingo Krampen
Pedagogical approaches	Inclusion	Conference Exchange/ intercommunion	Dirk Höflich, Ole Pedersen, Eva Grindel, Ute Schötzig
„Amnesty-Function“	Help for members „Pedagogic without Borders“	Interventions Advice, mentoring	Eva Becker, Vesna Puhovski , Ole Pedersen

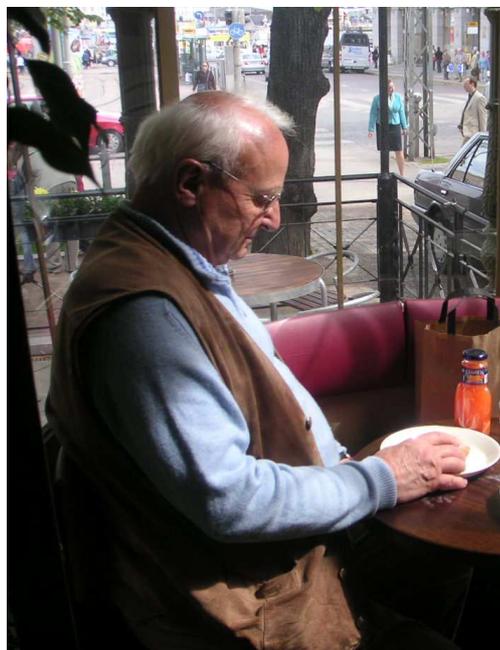
Eginhard Fuchs, or: how to swim against the tide

When I told a friend that Eginhard Fuchs had unexpectedly passed away on Easter Saturday he simply said: „He was always good for a surprise.“ Looking back on his life and work I have to say, yes, he was! When he was born in Hettstedt on October 10th, 1933, as the son of the owner of an organic grocery store nobody around him would have expected that he was to become a teacher at a Waldorf school. He took to the idea of Waldorf schools and Anthroposophy with incredible enthusiasm, they both became his passion and never let go of him. During his studies in Graz and Tübingen he met his long time friend and soulmate Johannes Kiersch, as well as Gerhard Kienle, founder of the Herdecke Hospital and the University of Witten-Herdecke. Kienle and his spiritual mentor Diether Lauenstein impressed Eginhard Fuchs with their strictly philosophical approach to anthroposophy, but still he never tried to simply copy their ways, but transformed them into his own.

Right after he finished his studies, he taught at the Rudolf Steiner school in Bochum, a Waldorf school that had recently been founded. Lessons were held by young and idealistic teachers in provisional buildings and in an old villa. Eginhard and his fellow teachers had to deal with children from the Ruhr area, whose playgrounds had been ruins from World War II and who grew up with the Beatles and the '68 protest movement. I was one of his students, if only for a short time, and the thing I most prominently remember is his patience. He could wait for hours, sitting on his desk, reading the newspapers, until the students finally calmed down, until the students started participating on their own, or – sometimes – even until the lesson was over.

His way of teaching was unconventional. He waited for the right moment, for mental awareness, for a kind of excited anticipation that helped to create a connection between

teacher and students. He played a significant role in the development of the final exams at the Rudolf Steiner School in Bochum. These exams rank among the most innovative and original ways of examination in recent educational practice. They consist of a practical one-year-project, a free presentation dealing with the contents of the project, and an oral exam that is designed to test the degree of understanding. All in all this kind of exam is the work of a genius: 3 requirements that in total show the intel-



lectual as well as personal maturity of the students, without making them study rather dull factual knowledge.

In Bochum Eginhard Fuchs came into close contact with yet another important current of Anthroposophy in the Ruhr Area, when he met Wilhelm Ernst Barkhoff, the founder of the GLS Bank. Barkhoff, a magician of the word, influenced him with his enthusiasm just as much as Lauenstein and Kienle had with their discipline of thinking.

When Eginhard Fuchs had established himself firmly within the profession of a teacher, and

could have simply looked forward to successfully working with routine and experience, he decided – together with his fellow teachers Johannes Kiersch and Gotthilf Pütz – to start a new seminar for Waldorf teachers. This was not just a surprise, it was brave on two levels: on the one hand it almost seemed like a sacrilege to even think about a competing seminar besides the traditional and established teacher's seminar in Stuttgart, based at the mother school of the Waldorf movement. On the other hand Fuchs, Kiersch and Pütz developed a revolutionary concept for their seminar. Based on the assumption that teaching at a Waldorf School is a form of art, they had their new teachers study art as well. Accordingly the prospective teachers in Witten-Annen had to take courses in music, language, painting and eurhythmics besides their usual subjects. For a number of years Eginhard became first a lecturer and later the director of the new Waldorf seminar, to the degree of being the role model and the "heart" of the institute.

Not less surprising was the foundation of the European Forum for Freedom in Education (*effe*) in 1989, the year when the Berlin Wall came down and for a short period the idea of freedom in education seemed to be a very possible option. Eginhard Fuchs' friendship with Tamás Vekerdy from Hungary and a small group of people in Bochum who were working towards freedom of education in Europe (Nana Göbel, Christoph Gögelein and me) made it possible that an improvised meeting of a few Hungarian and German educational experts in the fall of 1989 could turn into a convention of almost a hundred people from all over Europe, especially Eastern European countries. One year later *effe* was founded at the second congress in Velence/Hungary, and Eginhard Fuchs was elected president. Again, *Effe* constituted a kind of gentle revolution against the established institutions in the movement for educational freedom. All of us, and especially Eginhard Fuchs, wanted *effe* to support not only the institutions, but the communication between all people interested in educational freedom as well, so that the general movement would be able to grow stronger. We wanted to

promote a genuine interest of Waldorf in Montessori, of alternative schools in religious schools, of educational experts in parents, of teachers in politicians, of Germans in Hungarians, of British people in Romanians, and so on.

Another surprise to everybody was Eginhard Fuchs' last attempt to live up to his passion: in Russia he organized the nationwide movement "beautiful schools", which later spread to other countries as well. In an age where other people settle down, it led him on adventurous paths to meet adventurous people in adventurous countries. And again he motivated many people with his enthusiasm, people who would have never dreamed of having such an impact with their own initiative for their children and schools, instead of waiting for help from the government.

Still, Eginhard Fuchs constantly kept swimming against the tide. Or maybe he was running ahead of his peers. And sometimes he wanted more than was actually achievable: The final exams at the school in Bochum served as models for the one-year-projects at many other Waldorf Schools, but the exam itself with its aspiring design soon got abolished even in Bochum. The Institute for Waldorf Education has been successfully working ever since it was founded more than 40 years ago, but just like *effe* is has not yet achieved the breakthrough in educational freedom Eginhard Fuchs had hoped for. The "beautiful schools" project was discontinued, when he could not lead it himself anymore. He failed with an ambitious construction project in Witten-Annen due to resistance from the Waldorf movement. He planned to realize the plans of the famous Hungarian architect Imre Makovecz for a vanguard hall for the Institute. Nobody among his friends or on the board of the Association of Waldorf Schools understood that this "insane" plan might have been the only way to establish Witten-Annen as an attractive exceptional university spearheading the movement for educational freedom in Northrhine-Westphalia. Nevertheless Eginhard Fuchs never sacrificed his convictions in order to achieve short-term success.

And yet, not achieving his long-term goals always meant evolving, for Eginhard Fuchs as well as the people who continued his work. He never bore any ill will after he finished a project, even when he could not fully realize his ambitious plans. He never withdrew his love and affection from neither the Institute in Witten-Annen nor effe and kept working in the background in both places.

And there was a sphere where Eginhard Fuchs was a real champion, the face-to-face encounter. Meeting him was always something exceptional. Time would stop during conversations with Eginhard Fuchs. Once he had sat down, lit a pipe (in earlier years) or had made a cup of tea or coffee for himself and his conversational partner, he created a space where true encounters between individuals could happen. New, unexpected ideas were born, plans were made and important events were prepared.

He gave good advice as well. During his time at the Institute and at effe Eginhard Fuchs always had personal students, who learned from him by simply accompanying or assisting him with his work schedule. He was always very demanding (and sometimes even more), but in this way he enabled his students to exceed their personal limits. And although they were his students, he always treated them as equals. Today these students are teachers, professors, executives, lawyers, and so on. One of his daughters, who served as an assistant with effe for one year after she finished school, said on his commemoration that it was an incredibly tough year, but that she is still benefiting from the experience.

He was married twice. He once told me "There are not many women in my life. But meeting the two women who came to play important roles was truly something else!" First there was Barbara, who could have made a career on her own, but decided to have a wonderful family with Eginhard Fuchs instead. She gave him nine children, one more special than the other. Some of his children I know really well. On the one hand it's hard to think of people more varied and diverse, but on the other hand they

have all inherited some of his particular charisma: to be confident, but true to themselves at the same time. Eginhard Fuchs was a role model to his children, but without raising himself above them. At his commemoration one of his children told an anecdote that illustrates this very vividly. After the child had committed a serious mistake, Eginhard took him aside and told him that he would support him "even if he robbed a bank!" He didn't need to say more.

Dorothea, Eginhard's second wife, accompanied him on the adventures of the second half of his life. She went to Russia with him, to Georgia and Hungary, to America and South Africa. Dorothea practices eurhythmics and complements his messages for Waldorf education and good schools all over the world with her art. She was a competent partner to him as well, supporting him when he fought against the conventions of this world. Barbara and Dorothea, both very different women, but great just the same. They created the space of freedom that was so essential to Eginhard Fuchs.

Eginhard Fuchs became intimate friends with many people, friendships that would last even through extended periods without seeing each other and differences in opinions. And that might have been his most beautiful capability: to convey the feeling to every person at all times that he or she matters, and that he or she can make a difference. And it was meant honestly, always. After all, you need friends when you swim against the tide.

Ingo Krampen

Сыновья, дочери, внуки Eginharda!!
 Многоуважаемые члены effe!
 Друзья и единомышленники дорогого Eginharda!
 Учителя и ученики Вальдорфских школ!
 Преподаватели и студенты Вальдорфского педагогического института!
 Скорбим вместе с Вами о тяжелой и невозполнимой утрате Великого Человека,
 проповедника свободы и создателя положительной коммуникации в жизни людей, У него
 была неиссякаемая энергия оказания помощи и поддержки для всех .Его гостеприимный
 дом, встречал с радостью гостей. со всех частей света Его творческий подход
 соединил педагогов, школы,учеников с их родителями в едином направлении дружбы и
 взаимопонимания между народами.
 Память о нём всегда будет в наших сердцах
 От имени группы effe и Красивых Школ Грузии и многочисленных друзей Eginhard Fuchsa
 Ламара Чикваидзе
 Перевод Давида Габуня

A letter from Georgia:

Dear Dorothea!
 Dear sons, daughters and grandchildren!
 Members of effe!
 Friends of Eginhard Fuchs'!
 Teachers and students of Waldorf Schools!
 Teachers and students at the Waldorf Institute!

We are all mourning the irreplaceable loss of a great human being. He was a propagandist of freedom and the creator of communication. He had unlimited energy to help and support everybody. His house was always open for guests all around the world. His creative approach united teachers, schools, students and parents for a mutual understanding between different people. He will always live in our hearts.

On behalf of the effe-group, the Beautiful Schools of Georgia and Eginhard Fuchs' numerous friends

Lamara Tschikvaidze

EU-Application turned down

Unfortunately the **effe**-application for money from the Jean Monet program of the EU has been turned down. One argument was that effe represents a broad spectrum of educational approaches. The distinctive features of these approaches and the potential contributions to the EU year of "active aging" did not become clear. Yet the activities of effe are focused on this subject. Another reason given was that apparently the communication between the members seemed to be low. It seemed like the actual work was done by the Brussels office and the members were only informed. The last important reason was that due to the vast geographical spread of effe its potential cannot be used. The definition of the target group was too vague, and there was no indication as to how the activities should be evaluated.

A statement from Eva Becker, president of **effe**:

An intensive exchange between the member organisations (schools, associations etc.) and the **effe**-International (board, office in Dortmund) has not only to support the work in Brussels and the decision making by the board, but also has to show how **effe**-International can help the schools in their work in the environments (government, society, co-operating between schools).

It is the very explicit wish and a serious offer of the board of the **effe** to get the mandate and tasks for its work from the members.

Closing of the Brussels office

Due to the aforementioned denial of the application for financial support the board has decided to close the office in Brussels. Unfortunately Anne Liekenbrok's job as director of effe has to be discontinued on 31st July, 2012. However, the office in Dortmund is still available for inquiries etc. Please contact

Elisabeth Köpke
International Office
Mergelteichstr. 59
44225 Dortmund
Phone +49-231-88083320

cessful during Anne Liekenbrock's employment in Brussels. Anne's ideas and positions (and therefore **effe's** as well) were widely appreciated and taken seriously. This was mainly due to her professional work, but also due to her natural charisma and **charme**. **Effe** owes her a significant rise in professionalization and an extension of competency with regard to the European Union. We hope that the fact that we cannot continue to fully employ her will not mean the end of her career at **effe**. We would like to thank Anne Liekenbrock once again for her successful work.

Ingo Krampen

The work of **effe** with the European agencies as well as our partner organisations in Brussels and other countries again became more suc-

Good bye

Dear members,

As of August 2012 I shall be moving on from **effe**. The last two and a half years have been fantastic and it has been an absolute pleasure getting to know each of you! I know these are difficult times for **effe** but I have total faith in the values and people in this organisation. I wish you all the best in your future endeavours and look forward to continuing my relationship with you in the next chapter.

With thanks and a touch of sadness, *Anne Liekenbrock*

What's inside?

As we reach the end of the academic year, the European Forum for Freedom in Education's 'What's Inside?' project is coming to a close. The project boxes have been making their way around the different participating countries over the last few months and it is now time to collect and examine the results.

This original project, developed and managed by **effe**, was launched in October 2011. It has been designed around the use of photography to inspire reflection on various aspects of European citizenship. With classes taking part in nine different European countries, the project is sure to have produced some exciting and varied images and we are looking forward to seeing what the students involved have produced.

The single-use cameras on which the pictures have been taken are now being developed and

prepared for viewing. The images will eventually be available to view online and at long last, the students will get to see what images both they and their fellow project participants have taken. Updates regarding the pictures' progress can be found both online and in future newsletters.

effe would like to warmly thank all those involved in the project, in particular the teachers, students and schools involved; without their dedication, the project would not have been possible. Our thanks are also extended to our project partners who have supported us throughout the year, including EUROCLIO, Jean Lambert MEP and Gerald Häfner MEP. As the first ever 'What's Inside?' project, **effe** is eagerly awaiting the results and feedback from the project and looks forward to more successful projects in the future.

Joshua Tebbutt

Preview 2013

Effe-Austria will hold a colloquium in Salzburg from 19th—20th April, 2013

Effe wants to participate in the following project next year:

„Cooling down“ - world climate and green energy as a game

The world climate game „Cooling down“ brings international climate- and energy-polities in academies, schools and universities to your home. What do we have to do in order to cut CO2-emission in half until 2050? What strategies are useful?

Dr. Otto Ulrich from the „Institut für kreative Technologien und humane Entwicklung“ (Institute for Creative Technologies and Humane Development) provides ideas and takes responsibility for the future into present times. He developed this game with the support of students from 4 continents, teachers, scientists and NGOs. Thousands of copies of this game are being played in Germany already. More information can be found on: www.cooling-down.com