



**Networking Meeting
“Education for Democratic Citizenship”
Association for New Education, Berlin on 27 October 2008**



Conference 02.-03.03.2009 Berlin

Democratic Education in a New Europe – Challenges for Parents and Families

Karl Lemberg · Project Manager · Lemberg@ane.de

Marina Protsenko · Project Assistant · Protsenko@ane.de



Protocol

The following persons participated in the networking meeting:

Dr. Heidemarie Arnhold, Chairwoman of ANE, Germany
Dr. Ulrich Raiser, Board Member of ANE, Germany
Izabela Ebertowska, Board Speaker for East European Communities, ANE, Germany
Anne Alitolppa-Niitamo, Family Federation of Finland – Väestöliitto / COFACE, Finland
Tony Ivens, Children in Wales/EUROCHILD, UK
Vassiliki Riga, EADAP - Society for the Development & Creative Occupation of Children, Greece
Klara Rulikova, Twins and Multiple Birth Club, Czech Republic
Elena Bakosova, Union of Mother Centers, Slovakia
Dr. Ljiljana Gehrecke, Europahaus Vukovar, Croatia
Agnieszka Bialek, Comenius Foundation, Poland
Dr. Abdelmajid Hassani, Journalist, Morocco
Dr. Wolfgang Beutel, Demokratisch Handeln, Germany
Dr. Katherine Bird, Bundesforum Familie/National Forum for Family Policy, Germany
Berrin Alpbek, FÖTED - Föderation türkischer Elternvereine in Deutschland e.V., Germany
Tülay Usta, TEVBB - Türkischer Elternverein in Berlin-Brandenburg e.V., Germany
Ishak Mashtaha, DMPG - Deutsch-Marokkanische Paritätische Gesellschaft e.V., Germany
Faten Ali, DMPG - Deutsch-Marokkanische Paritätische Gesellschaft e.V., Germany
Mahmoud El-Hussein, AEU - Arabische Eltern-Union e.V., Germany
Christiane Eitel, Project Network of intercultural Communication (NiC), ANE
Kris Golisch, Project Network of intercultural Communication (NiC), ANE
Dudu Sönmezçiçek, Letters for Parents Turkish-German, ANE
Anke Schröder, Project „Respect works out“, DAPHNE, ANE
Christian Schoenfelder, Intercultural Family Councelling, ANE

Also present: Claudia Kessel, Kindergruppe Kreuzberg Nord e.V., Berlin

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Faten Ali

Deutsch-Marokkanische
Paritätische Gesellschaft e.V.

Germany



Anne Alitolppa-Niitamo

Family Federation of Finland
Väestöliitto / COFACE

Finland



Berrin Alpбек

Föderation türkischer
Elternvereine in Deutschland
e.V. (FÖTED)

Germany



Elena Bakosova

Union of Mother Centres

Slovakia

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Dr. Wolfgang Beutel

Demokratisch Handeln

Germany



Agnieszka Białek

Comenius Foundation
Project "Child as Citizen"

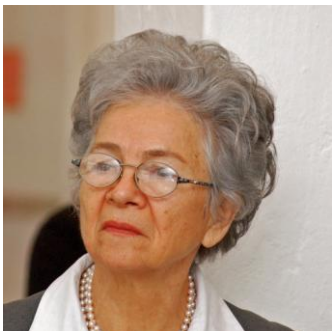
Poland



Dr. Katherine Bird

Bundesforum Familie

Germany



Dr. Ljiljana Gehrecke

Europahaus Vukovar

Croatia

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Dr. Abdelmajid Hassani

Journalist
French-speaking parents organizations

Morocco



Tony Ivens

Children in Wales
EUROCHILD

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Ishak Mashtaha

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Vassiliki Riga

Society for the Development
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Klara Rulikova

Twins and Multiple Birth Club

Czech Republik



Tülay Usta

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The networking meeting of different European family organizations invited by the Association New Education (ANE) in Berlin was an event to **a)** set the stage for the International Conference 'Democratic Education in a New Europe – Challenges for Parents and Families' March 02-03 2009 in Berlin; and **b)** to prepare the launch of a future network on Democratic Education/Education for Democracy and the roles of parents and families. The main purpose was for partner organizations and organizations interested in contributing to this conference and the network to get to know each other.

Welcome and introduction: Ms Arnhold, the Chairwoman of ANE, welcomes the participants and encourages them to contribute to the brainstorming for the conference and the anticipated Memorandum of Understanding about further cooperation.

ANE-presentation: Intentions for a network "Education for democratic citizenship" (EDC) as a subject for parents associations and general ideas of networking from the perspective of ANE

Arbeitskreis Neue Erziehung e. V. („Association for a New Education“, ANE) focuses on democratic values in education, such as mutual respect, tolerance and the ability to balance different interests. Given these essentials ANE supports parents - regardless of their economical, social, religious or ethnic background. The mission of ANE is to enhance the idea of a democratic, intercultural education, based on children as citizens and children's rights.

The vision of ANE is a democratic education for a European citizenship in support of a peaceful cosmopolitan united Europe.

In the field of parents' and family associations and with their special approach we intend to build a network committed in new approaches to education and upbringing in the family and in society. For the near future, the ANE hopes to work with partners on a shared memorandum. To give the debate on democratic education in the new Europe a clear direction we announced a conference in March 2009.

Short presentation of each participating parents-/family association and feedback by participants on the conference program and on the idea of networking – best practice and educational concepts:

- **What is your approach to EDC?**
- **How do you involve parents in EDC?**
- **Do we need a common European concept?**
- **Is a network necessary/how would you imagine its set-up?**

Information will be provided in a separate document once all participants have sent their info via mail to Lemberg@ane.de.

Short summary of first discussion round:

- **What are our common main interests?**
- **What are issues of continued debate e.g. at the conference?**

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The first discussion-round asked participants to pinpoint their interest in the issue of “democratic education – the role of parents and families” to see if there are overlapping interests and objectives. This discussion was supposed to be the foundation for a memorandum of understanding but since time constraints were cutting the discussion short, participants agreed to continue this dialogue via email. We plan to finish the drafting of a MoU in late December/early January.

Participants have agreed on:

- their common mission is to provide the best outcomes for children;
- that a joint support for the UN Convention on Children Rights was agreed upon but there is room for more discussion in order to establish if the Convention is a sufficient foundation for our work or not;
- to continue discussing the concept of democracy and what the role of family/parents is within that concept (conference) as well as to further debate socioeconomic aspects relevant for a democratic education (as opposed to purely educational aspects)
- exchanging ideas towards a joint project (as part of the network) and researching grant opportunities on the EU-level;
- intensifying the exchange of ideas and learning from each other

Review and conclusion

All participants of the first networking meeting have high-lightened their interest as family and parent organization in the debate of democratic education and how parents are to be involved and addressed. There is a need for family organizations to establish their role in the concepts of Education for Democratic Citizenship (EDC) and Human Rights Education (HRE). This will be one thematic objective for the conference in March.

Almost all participants have pledged to contribute to the conference in terms of participating, organizing workshops, disseminating information and yielding access to other networks.

Further steps are

- a) Drafting a joint memorandum of understanding (Dec/Jan)
- b) Meeting again at the conference (March)
- c) Raising funds/Applying for European project grants as a network with a common objective (all throughout 2009)
- d) Drafting a political memorandum on democratic education (late 2009)

The meeting was concluded at 04:00 p.m.

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