



EUROPEAN COUNCIL FOR STEINER WALDORF EDUCATION

VISION

Education enabling all children to holistically unfold their unique potential throughout their life-long personal and professional development.

MISSION

Representing Steiner Waldorf education and promoting freedom in education in Europe

A WORLDWIDE MOVEMENT

100 years ago, in 1919, Rudolf Steiner founded the first Waldorf School in Stuttgart upon request of entrepreneur Emil Molt, who had asked him to create a school for the children of workers at the Waldorf- Astoria cigarette factory. Today there are over 1,180 Waldorf schools and 1900 Waldorf kindergartens in over 70 countries around the globe – and the movement is growing fast. Most of these schools are located in Europe and represented by our members.

STEINER WALDORF EDUCATION

Steiner Waldorf schools offer a human-centred education emphasising the role of the imagination. They promote the balanced development of student capacities through artistic, academic, physical, and social learning. The Steiner Waldorf curriculum is non-prescriptive, in accord with developmental needs of the child and avoids an undue early specialisation or inappropriate academic pressure. The Steiner core curriculum is taught in bloc lessons. A class teacher accompanies children from school entry age for several years in succession. Our schools are co-educational, and usually both comprehensive and integrated from the age of 6/7 to 18/19. Our schools and settings aspire to a model of management and leadership which is collaborative, with responsibility and accountability defined and shared transparently throughout the organisation.

OUR ADVOCACY

- **ET 2020 Working Group Schools:**
This working group is facilitated by the European Commission and brings together experts from national education ministries, relevant EU bodies, international organisations, social partners and civil society to further policy development through mutual learning and the identification of good practices. ECSWE is a member since February 2016 and our mandate was extended in 2018 for another 2 years;
- **Initiative for an age-appropriate media pedagogy:**
Together with IASWECE and ELIANT, ECSWE lobbies EU Institutions and engages in an open debate with our partners and other stakeholders;
- **Initiative for Diversity in Assessment:**
Together with Learning for Well-being and the Hungarian Waldorf Association, ECSWE launched an ERASMUS+ Partnership in 2019. Its aim is the collection and documentation of good assessment practices that may serve as alternatives to standardised tests. The collected practices will also be used to inform and support our advocacy towards EU Institutions;
- **Lobbying for Freedom in Education:** ECSWE maintains a network with other organisations promoting freedom in education.



PRIORITIES

To implement our mission, we promote freedom in education and school autonomy. The provision of genuine Steiner Waldorf education tailored to local needs is best achieved if the following conditions are met:

- **Freedom of curriculum:** National associations and local schools can define and fully implement their own school curricula;
- **The freedom of parental school choice** as described in Article 14, Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union is granted Europe wide;
- **Full public funding for independent non-profit schools** is granted Europe wide to realize the right of parental school choice, irrespective of financial means;
- **Diversity in assessment is a reality** and Waldorf schools may develop and provide their own, state-recognised diploma. Standardised and centralised tests are replaced with personalised assessment;
- **Age-appropriate ICT and media pedagogy:** Our schools can provide their own ICT and media pedagogy based on our development-oriented approach.

OUR ORGANIZATION

The European Council for Steiner Waldorf Education (ECSWE) consists of 26 national Steiner Waldorf schools associations representing 775 schools and 178.502 pupils in 28 European countries. The organisation is funded by contributions of our members that are calculated based on pupils numbers in the member countries.

BOARD

President: Dr. Richard Landl, Germany
Secretary: Margareta Van Raemdonck, Belgium
Treasurer: Frederikke Larsson, Denmark
Vice-President: Iztok Kordis, Slovenia
Vice-Treasurer: Pia Pale, Finland

Role: The Board formally administers and represents the association. The Board offers guidance and steers Council activities, sets the agenda of Council meetings and hires and supervises staff. The Board represents the Council towards the EU Institutions in Brussels. Board members are elected by the Council for a period of 3 years.

BRUSSELS OFFICE

Managing Director: Georg Jürgens
Assistant Manager: Ilona De Haas

Role: The Brussels office coordinates the work of the Council, organises meetings, facilitates communication with and between members, builds and maintains a network with partner organisations. On behalf of the Board, the Managing Director can represent the Council towards the EU Institutions in Brussels.

COUNCIL

26 member associations each represented by its appointed representative with one vote in the General Assembly

6 partner organisations have permanent guest status without voting rights (see next page)

Role: The Council is a forum to report on important organisational, political and legal developments in the member countries, to exchange best practices and to coordinate joint activities and advocacy around shared goals. The Council meets 3 times per year each time in a different member country.

26 ASSOCIATIONS REPRESENTING 775
SCHOOLS IN 28 EUROPEAN COUNTRIES



COUNTRY	SCHOOLS	PUPILS
Armenia	1	525
Austria ¹	21 (19)	(2550)
Belgium	33	3991
Croatia	2	247
Czech Republic	20	3416
Denmark ²	14 (13)	(3121)
Estonia	10	1290
Finland	24	5018
France	17	1793
Germany	246	87902
Hungary	43	(6859)
Ireland ³	5 (2)	(58)
Italy ⁴	33 (28)	(2785)
Latvia	3	770
Lithuania	4	798
Luxembourg	1	380
Netherlands	112	28860
Norway	31	5178
Poland	7	473
Portugal ⁵	4	no data
Russia ⁶	16	2779
Sweden	45	6290
Switzerland	32	5049
Slovakia	2	306
Slovenia ⁷	5 (4)	(742)
Spain	15	1433
Ukraine ⁸	10	1903
United Kingdom	31	3986
Total	787 (775)	178502

Comments: ^{1/2/3/4/6/7} Numbers in brackets: schools/pupils represented by the national association; ⁵ currently, the Portuguese schools are represented by Spain; ⁸ in Ukraine there are 4 licensed Waldorf schools and ⁶ Waldorf-inspired schools that are all represented in the national association.

OUR PARTNERS

ECSWE is a member of the following networks and platforms:



Alliance for Childhood European Network Group
allianceforchildhood.eu



ELIANT
eliant.eu



Eurochild
eurochild.org



Learning for Well-being Community
l4wb.org



Lifelong Learning Platform
llplatform.eu



Waldorf100
Waldorf-100.org

OUR PERMANENT GUESTS



European Network of Steiner Waldorf Parents
enswap.org



Friends of Waldorf Education
freunde-waldorf.de/en



Goetheanum Pedagogical Section
ps.goetheanum.org/en



International Association for Steiner/Waldorf Early Childhood Education
iaswece.org



International Forum for Steiner/Waldorf Education
waldorf-international.org



International Network for Academic Steiner Teacher Education
inaste-network.com

CONTACT US



EUROPEAN COUNCIL FOR STEINER WALDORF EDUCATION

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