

Report on the L4WB Community Meeting in Caux, Switzerland

Clara Aerts, Vosselaar, Belgium



In January the 2nd meeting of the L4WB Community took place, bringing together different organizations that work for children and youth and are committed to promote well-being in their associations and networks. One of the objectives of the collaboration in this community is to cultivate a common language that describes well-being and to use the [L4WB framework](#) and principles as a way to improve the quality of the work on behalf of children in the different networks. The hope is that by cultivating the L4WB language and principles in the grassroots movement, they will increasingly become a lens for policy makers to look through whenever legislation affects the life of children and their family.

Members of the L4WB Community are situated either in the Community of Practice (L4WB team and organizations), Community of Partners ([IASWECE](#), [ECSWE](#), [NIVOZ](#), [ISSA](#), [EUCIS-LLL](#), [AFC.eu](#), and others) or the Wider Community (individuals who help with contacts with the EU Parliament, UNICEF, etc.).



On the first day of the meeting, we took stock of what had been realized in 2015. Several reports showed how the L4WB framework and principles were used to optimize the work in the respective networks with a very positive echo. On the 2nd day we worked in groups to bring interested partners together to collaborate on topics that were burning issues in their networks. Together with colleagues from ECSWE we explored with other interested partners what could be done to raise more awareness in the wider public and among policy makers regarding the

need to develop healthy guidelines for the use and development of digital tools that are being pushed into early childhood settings and the first grades. It became clear that best strategy forward and most effective way to express our concern would be to try to join one of the working groups on this topic within the European commission. In addition, the Alliance for Childhood will organize a [QOC presentation](#) in the EU parliament next September on this subject.



The last day was for imagining and planning future collaborative actions. In the discussion group I attended we discussed how to move forward to bring more awareness regarding the topic of assessment and the negative effect of standardized testing on children. In this respect we also discussed how an understanding of child development and the art of observation and perceiving is crucial in evaluations and essential to be developed and cultivated in teacher training courses. Another QOC presentation will be organized in April as a follow up of the symposium '[Pluralism in assessment](#)' that took place in Luxembourg organized by L4WB and ECSWE.

It was clear that these meetings are very beneficial in developing strong bonds between the people representing the different organizations and that there is a strong will present in all the members to work together towards the future to improve the quality of childhood.

Clara Aerts is a member of the IASWECE coordinating group.

