



**IASWECE**

International Association for  
Steiner/Waldorf Early Childhood Education

# ANNUAL REPORT 2014



Dear friends, colleagues, donors and supporters,

We are pleased to present you with our 2014 Annual Report, which will provide you with information about the work of IASWECE throughout the world.

As co-workers, friends and helpers of our association, we want to keep you informed about the developments in the various country projects that you help us support worldwide and highlight some of the activities we have undertaken to improve the quality of early childhood education through working with the adults that care for children. We also find it important to give you a clear picture of our sources of income and how we have used our financial means to support our work.

Although there is a growing public awareness of the importance of childhood as the basis for later life, educational laws are still mostly driven by the economy and what labour markets need. Valuable research by professionals in the areas of health and education is still ignored far too often and not taken as guidance for investing in health-providing support systems for families, childcare centres or EC programs. At the same time the need to provide support in these areas is growing as life is becoming more and more complex and challenging for both the children and those who care for them. Creating a world of wholeness around the developing child when fear is so prevalent in the adults surrounding them is becoming increasingly difficult. An all-embracing inner feeling of being one with oneself and with the world is a foundation for developing inner strength and trust in the future and something we want to give each child as a strong start in life.

In creating opportunities for educators to deepen their understanding through study and research and supporting their professional development through training and mentoring, we aim to help them develop the inner strength needed to create a wholesome life for the children in their care. We also continue to act as the voice for the young child by working together in platforms that advocate and lobby to develop and support legislation that will affect the healthy development of early childhood in its broadest sense.

It is our hope that the content of this report will encourage you to support our work and activities on behalf of children worldwide.

On behalf of the board, the Coordinating Group and our many IASWECE colleagues devoted to these tasks, we send our heartfelt greetings.

Sincerely,

Claudia Freytag, Oliver Langscheid, Janni Nicol, and Lourdes Tormes Granados (Board)

Clara Aerts, Susan Howard, Philipp Reubke (Coordinating Group)

*“Against a background of prevailing materialistic trends in education and modern culture, the protection, indeed the salvation, of childhood as the fundamental stage of each individual’s unfolding life has become a worldwide pioneering work.*

*In our Association, all who serve the education of children, the training of educators, the cooperation with parents, and the development of human culture at large - spiritually, legally and economically, work together.*

*The fruitfulness of worldwide cooperation beyond all limits of language, politics and religion is a tried and tested experience.”*

*Dr. Helmut von Kügelgen*

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR'S ACTIVITIES FOR 2014

### May

#### Council Meeting in Doorn, Netherlands

During a time of growing social and political tensions around the world, the IASWECE Working Group on Diversity Awareness and Council members developed a statement called “The Universal Human Spirit of Waldorf Early Childhood Education” for publication and international distribution as a stimulus for reflection and discussion.

The Council welcomed representatives from two new member country associations – China and Slovenia, and met with colleagues from Dutch Waldorf kindergartens to hear about the joys and challenges of their work.

The Council also approved a process for the recognition of Waldorf kindergarten training courses around the world, based on the IASWECE Guidelines for Training. The training and ongoing development of Waldorf early childhood educators continues to be a major focus for our work.



### October

#### Council Meeting in Vienna, Austria

34 early childhood educators representing 32 member country- and multi-country associations met for four days in Vienna, welcoming the representatives from two member country associations in Lithuania and India, and meeting with Austrian Waldorf kindergarten teachers at the “Haus der Anthroposophie”.



In addition to planning a major international conference on “Transitions in Childhood” in March 2015, the Council also began to study the development of resilience in children growing up in a climate of fear and anxiety whether this arises from the trauma of war, natural disasters or traumatic and stressful experiences that are a part of everyday life for many children around the world, in both so-called rich and poor countries. We will continue to work with this theme in the future.

The Council also planned its activities for 2015, including early childhood training and collaboration projects in Africa, Asia, Europe, the Pacific Region, and Latin America.

#### Early Childhood Trainers Meeting in Vienna, Austria

Following the October Council meeting, 59 Waldorf early childhood trainers from Europe, Brazil, South Africa, North America, China, Israel, Ethiopia, India, and New Zealand met for four days to explore new ways to approach teacher education so that it is inspiring, enlivening, and effective for today's students.

As colleagues, we shared efforts to engage in our own individual research and deepening, enliven the content of our coursework, and support students in taking responsibility for their own paths of development. Other themes we explored included the difference between mentoring and advising, working with the seven life processes in adult learning, becoming aware of our own learning styles and those of the students, and understanding and engaging with various levels of contemporary and spiritual scientific research.



## OUR PARTNERS - COLLABORATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:



The African proverb 'It takes a village to raise a child.' has been widely used to express the importance of collaboration when facing complex tasks such as education. In IASWECE we strongly believe that if we want to change the ruling paradigm of education for the better, we need to collaborate with others in a mutual learning process in order to share, exchange, and together to plan and take the necessary steps.

### Worldwide collaboration:

Two IASWECE Council members participate in the **International Forum for Waldorf/Steiner Schools** (Hague Circle). One meeting in 2014 took place in Israel and focused on the role Waldorf education could play in the specific cultural context of the Middle East. Presentations and discussions explored the following themes: the cultural history of the region, the relationship of Waldorf education with the missions of each of the monotheistic religions, and the contribution Waldorf education can make toward a more peaceful living together. A strong and harmonious relationship between children and adults appears to be one of the keys to peace through education: in the first seven years, this relation lives through imitation, between seven and fourteen through admiration and enthusiasm for the approach of the adult, and in adolescence it is the encounter with adults following their ideals who are engaged in life. In addition, the International Forum worked on preparations for the 10<sup>th</sup> World Teachers Conference, which will take place at the Goetheanum from March 28 to April 2<sup>nd</sup> 2016. Kindergarten teachers will be also invited to this conference. Specific themes of the first seven-year period and the transition from school to kindergarten will be addressed.

### European collaboration:

The **European Council for Steiner Waldorf Education (ECSWE)** works to help Waldorf/Steiner schools in Europe on a political, economical and social level and fosters collaboration among different schools and countries. One of the topics ECSWE worked on in 2014 was to take stock on the question of how school readiness and the transition from kindergarten to school is handled in the different countries and a comparison of the approaches of the Waldorf movement and mainstream education. This topic came out of growing concerns about the age of school entrance being lowered in several countries and the effects of accelerated formal learning on the development of the child. Follow-up on this study will continue in 2015.

### Alliance for Childhood Europe:

The "Unfolding" conference in 2013 brought forth a strengthened collaboration among the various member organizations in the AFC network group and the addition of several new partner organizations that joined the AFC-ENG in 2014. <http://www.allianceforchildhood.eu>

The AFC-ENG core group also started to explore the possibilities of a follow up of the Unfolding conference in the coming years; it will likely be organized by one of the AFC-ENG members in 2016 in the Netherlands.

Ideas for strengthening the Alliance activity on an international basis were further worked through in regular conference calls between the core members of the AFC-ENG in Brussels and partners of the AFC networks in the USA, Brazil, Spain and the UK. Activities included setting up a website for the international AFC to keep each other informed and strengthen activities worldwide, and exploring the possibilities and objectives for an international alliance event in the near future.



## Working Group on the Quality of Childhood (QOC)

The objectives of this group are to stimulate a better understanding of the quality of childhood in the EU member countries, to develop principles and approaches that could lead to betterment for children, and to consider the role that the EU-Parliament could play to improve the situation. Each session is focused on a specific theme, and professionals and researchers are invited to make presentations. In 2014 the group worked on themes such as "Early Childhood Education and Care Systems in Europe: current trends and needs," "Parent's Partnership Stability and Quality as a context for child development", and "The Mental Health Situation of Children and Young People in the EU". The 5<sup>th</sup> QOC book with reports from the presentations and research of previous sessions was published and is available for free on the website [www.allianceforchildhood.eu](http://www.allianceforchildhood.eu)

## Learning for Well-being (L4WB)

After each Quality of Childhood (QOC) meeting, Learning for Well-being members participated in what is called a Post-QOC session. In these sessions members could further deepen the content presented by researchers during the



QOC session and explore how the findings could be used to further develop and implement the L4WB charter. The goals described in the charter are to develop local partnerships, integrated holistic approaches across sectors, meaningful engagement by policy makers, and a better understanding of what needs to be measured for a better return on investment in childhood. [www.learningforwellbeing.org](http://www.learningforwellbeing.org)

## Ongoing collaboration with the following organizations:

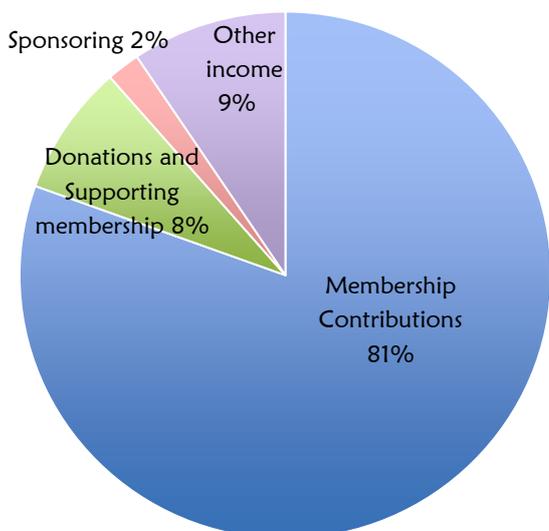
- Friends of Waldorf Education (*Freunde der Erziehungskunst e.V.*), Germany
- Pedagogical Section and Medical Section, Goetheanum, Switzerland
- ENDA partners (European Network of Anthroposophical Development Associations)
- ELIANT (European Alliance for Applied Anthroposophy).



# FINANCIAL YEAR RESULTS 2014

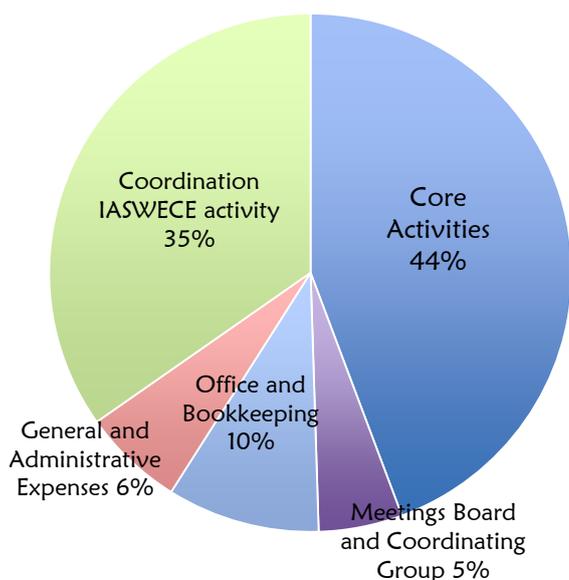
(Amounts rounded to thousands)

## Total Income 2014



	2014	2013
<b>Membership Contributions</b>	218,300€	213,000€
<b>Donations and Supporting Membership</b>		
Supporting Membership	21,800 €	37,000 €
Unrestricted Donations	1,000 €	1,000 €
Restricted Donations	10,500 €	16,000 €
	10,300 €	20,000 €
<b>Sponsors</b>	5,500 €	5,000 €
<b>Other Income</b>	25,600 €	18,000 €
Reimbursement Travel Costs	16,700 €	15,000 €
Additional Membership	5,500 €	3,000 €
Conference Income	3,400 €	0 €
Unused Reserves Previous Year	0 €	0 €
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>271,200 €</b>	<b>273,000 €</b>

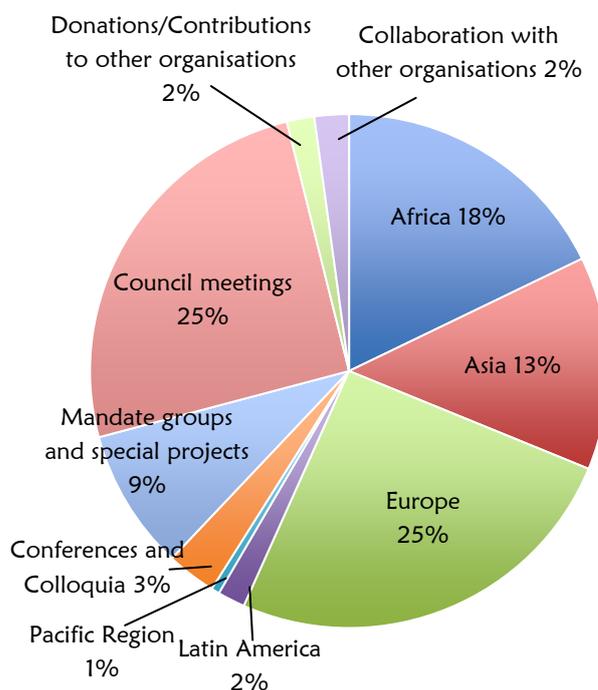
## Total Expenses 2014



<b>A: Core Activities</b>	116,300 €
<b>B: Strategic Planning and Implementation</b>	13,600 €
Meetings Board and Coordinating Group	
<b>C: Salaries and Administration</b>	
Office and Bookkeeping	24,800 €
General and Administrative Expenses	16,500 €
Coordination of IASWECE Activity	91,200 €
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>262,400 €</b>

## Core Activities 2014

Africa	20,700 €
Asia	15,600 €
Europe	29,600 €
Latin America	2,000 €
Pacific Region	600 €
Conferences and Colloquia	3,600 €
Mandate Groups & Special Projects	10,300 €
Council Meetings	29,400 €
Collaboration with Other Organizations	2,000 €
Donations/Contributions to Other Organisations	2,500 €
<b>Total Expenses for Core Activities</b>	<b>116,300 €</b>



# DONORS and SPONSORS 2014

## Foundations and Sponsors

Freunde der Erziehungskunst - Friends of Waldorf Education (Germany)  
IONA (Netherlands)  
Mercurius International (Netherlands)  
Stichting Helias (Netherlands)  
Sanduko A Ndege (Denmark)  
Waldorf Stiftung (Germany)

## Donations from Member Country Associations

Arbeitsgemeinschaft der RSS, Zürich (Switzerland)  
Asociación de Centros Educativos Waldorf en España (Spain)  
Asociatia Educatoarelor WK (Romania)  
Asociace Waldorfskych materskych (Czech Republic)  
Federatie van Steinerscholen in Vlaanderen (Belgium)  
Riksföreningen Waldorfförskolornas Samråd (Sweden)  
Steiner Waldorf Schools Fellowship (United Kingdom)  
Ukrainian Waldorf Kindergarten Association (Ukraine)  
Swedish Council Meeting (Sweden)  
Vereinigung der Waldorfindergärten (Germany)  
Vereniging van vrijescholen (Netherlands)  
Waldorfbund Österreich (Austria)  
Waldorf Early Childhood Association of North America (WECAN)

## Partnerships

Geroa Escola (Spain) - Hawzen/Ethiopia  
NESWEC (United Kingdom) - Ho Chi Minh/Vietnam

## Donations from Individuals and Supporting Members/Friends

Aerts Clara (B), Aysel Seyda (DE), Blacquière Els (NL), Burroughs Kathleen (UK), Dahl Olga (DK), Deféché Fabienne (FR), Deforest Louise (USA), Efremova Svetlana (RU), Eichele Theresia (CH), Falleiros Flavia (B), Freytag Claudia (DE), Geisberger Eva Maria (AT), Häuptle Mary-G (ZA), Henning Erika (DE), Howard Susan (USA), Jardin Infância São Jorge (ES), Kollmer Carmen (DE), Lenhardt Dorothea (DE), Malmsten Gudrid (S), Mohlin Charina (S), Nicol Janni (UK), Nomathemba Tindlinie (ZA), Reubke Philipp (FR), Van de Pas Lin (B), Van den Bergh Ellen (B), Voiculesse Elena (RO), Walter Baumgartner Jacqueline (SW), Lauzzana Silvia (UK)

## Donations from Kindergartens and Regions

Calder Valley Kindergartens (United Kingdom)  
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Hungarian Kindergartens (Hungary)  
Michael Hall Kindergartens (United Kingdom)  
Vereinigung Region Niedersachsen Bremen (Germany)  
Southern Region of Brazilian Kindergartens (Brazil)  
Steinerpäiväkoti Pikku-Otava (Finland)  
Steinerpäiväkoti Päivänsäde in Porvoo (Finland)  
Waldorf Kindergartens Warsaw (Poland)  
Stiftelsen Solstugan Ekerö (Sweden)  
Vereniging van kleuterscholen (Belgium)  
Waldorfindergarten Wien-Mauer (Austria)

## Other Donors

KINDLING (Journal for Steiner  
Waldorf Early Childhood),  
(United Kingdom)



## WORKING TOGETHER

### Members of the IASWECE Council 2014

Clara Aerts, Belgium  
Stefanie Allon, Israel  
Els Blacquièrre-Biesta, Jocelyn Roy, Netherlands  
Angela Carina Dana, Romania  
Louise deForest, Susan Howard, North America  
Sara De Los Santos, Gudrid Malmsten, Sweden  
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Lourdes Tormes-Granados, Spain  
Heather Van Zyl, Australia  
Jacqueline Walter-Baumgartner,  
Switzerland  
Li Zhang, China

### Board

Claudia Freytag, Germany  
Els Blacquièrre-Biesta, Netherlands  
Janni Nicol, United Kingdom  
Lourdes Tormes-Granados, Spain  
Oliver Langscheid, Germany

### Coordinating Group

Clara Aerts, Belgium  
Susan Howard, USA  
Philipp Reubke, France





# IASWECE

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