



## 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

Over 100 years ago, in 1919, Rudolf Steiner founded the first Waldorf School in Stuttgart, Germany 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 1.250 Waldorf schools and 1.900 Waldorf kindergartens in over 75 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 and the self-activity of the learner. They promote the balanced development of student capacities through artistic, academic, physical, and social learning. The Steiner Waldorf curriculum is non-prescriptive and matches the learning of skills and knowledge to the developmental tasks of the students. It avoids an undue early specialisation or inappropriate academic pressure. The core curriculum is taught in block lessons. A class teacher accompanies children from school entry age for a number of years in succession. Our schools are co-educational, non-selective, comprehensive and integrated from ISCED 1-3. Our model of governance is one in which leadership and management serve the quality of the education, enabling the development of own potential and capacity building in students, teachers and co-workers. The pedagogy is developed and evaluated collegially.

## OUR ACTIVITIES

### EEA Working Group Schools 2021-2025:

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 for the entire 4-year mandate of the group, and represented by Dr Martyn Rawson.

### HERMMES partnership for age-appropriate media education:

Together with 15 partners, ECSWE is dedicated to developing internationally relevant open source material for schools, teachers and parents on holistic media education. This project is co-financed by the ERASMUS+ programme of the European Union for the period of 3 years, from 2022 to 2025.

### Networking and capacity building for members:

Based on regular structured calls with our members, we map their needs and provide support in the form of capacity building sessions, networking opportunities and the setup of thematic working groups. Upon request, we also stand ready to provide tailored support to our members in their national level advocacy.



## ADVOCACY 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** implemented Europe wide to realize the right of parental school choice, irrespective of financial means;
- **Diversity in assessment is a reality:** Our schools may develop and provide their own, state-recognised diploma. Standardised and centralised tests are replaced with formative and ipsative assessment;
- **Age-appropriate media education and computer studies** is respected and our schools may deliver it based on our development-oriented approach.

# OUR ORGANIZATION

The European Council for Steiner Waldorf Education (ECSWE) consists of 27 national Steiner Waldorf schools associations representing over 800 schools and 190.000 pupils in 29 European countries. The organisation is funded by contributions of our members that are calculated based on pupils numbers in the member countries.

## BOARD

**President:** Margareta Van Raemdonck, Belgium

**Vice-President:** Iztok Kordiš, Slovenia

**Vice-President:** Wilfried Bialik, Germany

**Secretary:** Pia Pale, Finland

**Treasurer:** Pedro Miguel, Portugal

**Role:** The Board formally administers and represents the association. It develops the long-term strategy of the organisation and steers Council activities, sets the agenda of Council meetings and hires and supervises the Managing Director. Board members are elected by the Council for a period of 3 years.

## TEAM

**Managing Director:** Georg Jürgens

**Advocacy and PR Coordinator:** Dora Šimunović

**Project Coordinator:** Márti Domokos

**Community Development Coordinator:** Sietske van Poelgeest

**Office Manager:** Janka Szoke

**Role:** The team coordinates the work of the Council, organises meetings, provides support and capacity building for members, coordinates projects, cooperates with partners and advocates our interests towards the EU and UN institutions.

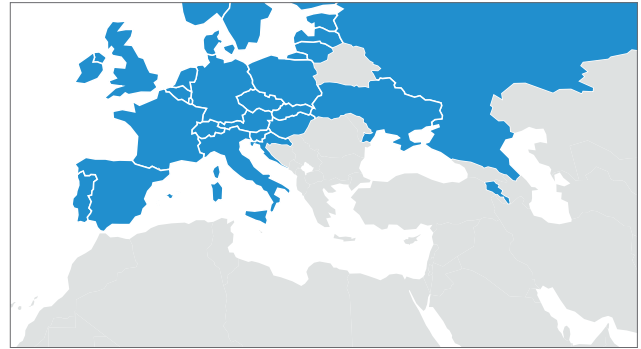
## COUNCIL

**27 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 brings together all our members 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 consists of member representatives and meets 3 times per year in our member countries and online.

27 ASSOCIATIONS REPRESENTING 802 SCHOOLS IN 29 EUROPEAN COUNTRIES



COUNTRY	SCHOOLS	PUPILS
Armenia	1	607
Austria <sup>1</sup>	(22) 19	2.354
Belgium	36	6.099
Croatia	3	317
Czech Republic	23	3.919
Denmark <sup>2</sup>	(14) 13	3.126
Estonia	10	1.408
Finland	23	5.026
France <sup>3</sup>	(19) 14	2.500
Germany	254	90.488
Hungary	45	7.805
Italy <sup>4</sup>	(39) 27	4.454
Latvia	5	1.152
Lithuania	5	1.072
Luxembourg	1	374
Netherlands <sup>5</sup>	(126) 124	31.507
Norway	34	5.379
Poland	7	566
Portugal	5	499
Russia	21	2.905
Sweden	44	5.808
Switzerland <sup>6</sup>	30	4.879
Slovakia	2	335
Slovenia	6	961
Spain	20	1.420
Ukraine	6	1.951 <sup>7</sup>
UK <sup>8</sup>	(27) 24	3.251
<b>Total</b>	<b>(828) 802</b>	<b>190.162</b>

**Comments:** <sup>1/2/3/4/5</sup>Numbers in brackets are the total number of Steiner Waldorf schools in a country, including schools that are not represented by the national association. <sup>6</sup>The Swiss association includes one school in Lichtenstein. <sup>7</sup>Last accurate pupil numbers for Ukraine were gathered in 2021. <sup>8</sup>The UK association includes one school in Republic of Ireland.

## 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

## 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 Council for  
Steiner/Waldorf Education  
waldorf-international.org



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

## CONTACT US



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