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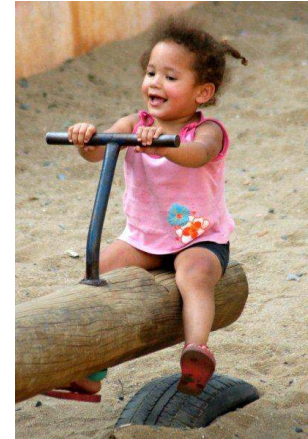
## ***The 3<sup>rd</sup> International Alliance for Childhood Conference***



**Budapest, Hungary**

**13-16 October 2010**

***'Childhood in Balance'***



During the four-day conference, we have a valuable opportunity to explore the subject of 'childhood in balance'. This theme is meant to encompass the entirety of the formative years, from birth until adulthood.

In recognition of our host country, there will be special focus on the situation in Hungary, although the Alliance for Childhood, associated sponsors and supporting organizations also intend to pursue a variety of objectives during the conference. We want to share new insights with each other about the subject in question and to find ways in which to support and encourage each other in what we do and to develop, together, concrete policy proposals for the various levels on which we operate.



By coming together in this way, we strengthen the community working to improve the quality of childhood, which will help us to form alliances with those who wish to extend this idea to a local, regional, national and ultimately international level.

Please find below the conference programme timetable and registration form. We hope you will be able to join us for this important event!

# Conference Programme

***Wednesday 13 October 2010***

<i>Time</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Speaker</i>
14.00 - 16.30	Registration and coffee	
16.30 - 17.00	Opening of the conference	
17.00 - 18.00	Exploring Contemporary Childhood and Youth	Christopher Clouder
18.00 - 18.30	Music	

***Thursday 14 October 2010***

<i>Time</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Speakers</i>
	<b><i>'Early Childhood and Care'</i></b>	
09.00 - 09.10	Introduction	
09.10 - 09.50	The Development Towards Freedom - Childhood as the Source of Creativity	Geseke Lundgren
09.50 - 10.30	Adults Around Children - Quality Principles in Education and Care	Mihaela Ionescu
10.30 - 11.00	Coffee break	
11.00 - 12.30 Simultaneous Workshops	What is the Need for the Setting to Embrace the Child of Today?	Geseke Lundgren & Helle Heckmann
	Adults Around Children - Quality Principles in Education and Care	Mihaela Ionescu
	How to orchestrate the improvement of the Quality of Childhood in a town, a country or in the European Union?	Michiel Matthes
	Hungarian Early Childhood Education Compared to the International Trends	Villányi Györgyné Jutka
12.30 - 14.00	Lunch Break	

# Conference Programme

**Thursday 14 October 2010**

<i>The Effect of the Media and IT on Children'</i>		
14.00 - 14.45	Mind & Body-Altering Media: the Effects of Modern Media on Our Children'	Martina Leibovici-Mühlberger
14.45 - 15.30	Let's Game: The Virtual Development of Children	Martine Delfos
15.30 - 16.00	Coffee break	
16.00 - 17.30 Simultaneous Workshops	Workshop on the theme	Martina Leibovici-Mühlberger
	How to Use IT in a Good Way	Attila Fózó
	Workshop on the theme	Susan Howard
17.30 - 18.30	Plenary and presentation session	

**Friday 15 October 2010**

<i>Time</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Speakers</i>
<i>'Poverty and Exclusion'</i>		
09.00 - 09.10	Introduction	
09.10 - 09.50	Lecture on the theme	Ann Sharfman
09.50 - 10.30	Lecture on the theme	Bernard Rorke
10.30 - 11.00	Coffee break	
11.00 - 12.30 Simultaneous Workshops	Why it is Important to Understand that Children are Not Little Adults	Helle Heckmann
	Poverty and Exclusion: the Case of Roma Children in the European Union	Bernard Rorke
	Workshop on the theme	Júlia Kapcsáné Németh
	Integration in Early Childhood	Anna Bakonyi
	Workshop on the theme	Stefanie Allon-Grob
	Workshop on the theme	Martine Delfos
12.30 - 14.00	Lunch Break	

# Conference Programme

***Friday 15 October 2010***

<b><i>'Parental and Social Expectations and Stress'</i></b>		
14.00 - 14.45	Isolated Parenting: Conditions for Modern Parents	Godi Keller
14.45 - 15.30	Lecture on the theme	Tamás Vekerdy
15.30 - 16.00	Coffee break	
16.00 - 17.30 Simultaneous Workshops	Concepts for Parent Courses	Godi Keller
	Lecture on the theme	Don Beck
	The Role of the Class Meeting in Parent Education	Louise deForest
17.30 - 18.30	Plenary and presentation session	

***Saturday 16 October 2010***

<b><i>Time</i></b>	<b><i>Description</i></b>	<b><i>Speakers</i></b>
<b><i>'What Action Can We Take?'</i></b>		
09.00 - 09.10	Introduction	
09.10 - 10.30	Smart Kids: Discovering, Developing & Nurturing the Natural Intelligences in Children	Dr Don Beck
10.30 - 11.00	Coffee break	
11.00 - 12.30	Balanced Childhood, Balanced Parenting	Mária Herczog
	A speech	MEP Mrs Lívia Járóka
	Closing remarks	Christopher Clouder
	Music	

## Speaker Biographies (in order of appearance)

**Christopher Clouder FRSA** is the director of the European Council for Steiner Waldorf Education and a co-founder of the Alliance for Childhood. He writes and gives public lectures internationally on educational matters, contemporary social issues and cultural evolution. He has recently been appointed as Director of the International Platform for Educational Innovation for the Fundación Marcelino Botín of Santander.

**Geseke Lundgren**, former Waldorf teacher and early childhood pedagogue, currently teaches at the Waldorf teacher high school in Stockholm and works as a lecturer and consultant for Waldorf early childhood programs within Sweden and Europe. She is a member of IASWECE (International Association for Steiner/Waldorf Early Childhood Education).

**Dr. Mihaela Ionescu** is an early childhood education expert, doctor of Education Sciences and is now Program Director of the International Step-by-Step Association. ISSA promotes equal access to quality education and care for all children, especially in the early years. Established in the Netherlands in 1999, ISSA's network today stretches from Central Europe to Asia and the Americas (<http://www.issa.nl/>). Dr Ionescu has been working for the last 15 years as a researcher, policy education developer, trainer, program and projects coordinator aiming to improve the quality of early childhood education and care services. She has also been an international consultant to UNICEF and World Bank projects in CEE/CIS region.

**Helle Heckmann** is an author, lecturer and has been a Waldorf kindergarten teacher for 25 years. She founded Nøkken, a kindergarten for children from 1-7 years old. For the last 15 years Helle has travelled around the world giving courses on how to protect childhood. Her book 'Childhood's Garden' is now available in English and is accompanied by a DVD.

**Michiel Matthes** became active in the advocacy field regarding the quality of childhood because of his experience as a father of three boys. He discovered that measures taken by governmental organisations, including schools, were often not in the best interest of the child. In 1998 he founded a Platform Group in the Netherlands, and in 2006 he co-founded the Alliance for Childhood European Network Group in Brussels to advocate for improving the quality of childhood in the European Union ([www.allianceforchildhood.eu](http://www.allianceforchildhood.eu)). Michiel Matthes is co-author of the book 'Improving the Quality of Childhood in the European Union, Current Perspectives'.

**Villányi Györgyné Jutka** is a Kindergarten teacher, Academic Contributor at Apor Vilmos Catholic College and teacher at Eötvös Lóránd University lower school. She is a board member of the Hungarian Pedagogical Society and leader of the Early Childhood Department; representative of the School Development Foundation Founder and editor of the 'Little Child' periodical.

**Martina Leibovici-Mühlberger** is a doctor, author, lecturer, executive management consultant and mother of four children. Since 2001 she has been the CEO of the ARGE Erziehungsberatung und Fortbildung GmbH, a training, counselling and research centre with social psychological focus on youth and family ([www.fitforkids.at](http://www.fitforkids.at)).

**Martine France Delfos** is a clinical research psychologist and biopsychologist. She works as a therapist and researcher. She develops biopsychological models, a recent model is Developmental Perspective on War Trauma. She has published several psychological textbooks. She is helping developing autism help in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Ecuador, gender equality in India, and healthy youth in Aruba. She is a professor on virtual development of youth. [www.mdelfos.nl](http://www.mdelfos.nl).

## Speaker Biographies (continued)

**Susan Howard** of Amherst, Massachusetts, USA, is the coordinator of the Waldorf Early Childhood Association of North America and a member of the Coordinating Group of the International Association for Steiner/Waldorf Early Childhood Education. She is the director of Waldorf Early Childhood Teacher Education at Sunbridge Institute in Spring Valley, New York, and a founding board member of the Research Institute for Waldorf Education.

**Ann Sharfman** lives in Cape Town, South Africa. For the past 15 years she has developed Waldorf Kindergarten teacher training programmes in the underprivileged townships around Cape Town, and for East African kindergarten teachers (Kenyan, Ugandan, Tanzanian) in Nairobi, Kenya, for 12 years.

**Bernard Rorke** is director of Roma Initiatives. Former director of the Roma Participation Program, he has worked with the Open Society Institute since 1998. Prior to this he lectured in political theory, was a production editor and a university marketing and publicity officer. Currently he teaches the "Roma Rights" course at Central European University in Budapest. He has a PhD from the Centre for the Study of Democracy, University of Westminster, and an MSc in politics and sociology from the University of London. He has written on issues of race, national identity and democratic theory.

**Stefanie Allon-Grob** grew up in Switzerland. She trained and then worked in Lower School Education, Curative Education, Speech Therapy and Early Childhood Education. She is mother of four, and lives and works in Israel/Palestine. She is a pioneer in introducing Steiner-Education into Hebrew and Arabic-speaking society. Currently, Stefanie is developing and leading Early Childhood and Kindergarten Training Courses.

**Dr. Anna Bakonyi** has worked in education of early childhood since 1974. Beginning as a kindergarten teacher, Dr Bakonyi then becoming an educator of kindergarten teachers, mainly at the Vilmos Apor Catholic College. She taught several different courses, mainly on the themes of pedagogy of games, alternative pedagogy and pedagogical practice. She also works at the Early Developer Centre, where her speciality is early development and the integration of children with special needs.

**Godi Keller**, father of two children and grandfather works at the Rudolf Steiner University College in Oslo, where his time is split between lecturing in pedagogy for teacher and kindergarten teacher trainees and working with parents' courses in Norway, Sweden, Hungary, the Baltics, Slovenia, and Iceland.

**Louise deForest** is the Pedagogical Director of the Early Childhood Program in the first Waldorf School in North America, the Rudolf Steiner School in New York City. She is a Board member of the Waldorf Early Childhood Association of North America (WECAN) and is one of two representatives from North America on the IASWECE Council.

**Maria Herczog, PhD** is an economist, sociologist and associate professor dealing with children's welfare and children's protection. She is also a researcher, university instructor and a member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. Her main areas of study are neglected and maltreated children, children who live without their families, the rights of children and children's welfare. She is the author of many books and articles, both in Hungary and abroad, and is an external expert/advisor to many international organisations: UNICEF, WHO, Council of Europe. She is currently President of Eurochild <http://www.eurochild.org/index.php?id=201> as well as Chair and Editor-in-Chief of the Family Child Youth Association in Hungary <http://www.csagyi.hu/en/association>.

## Speaker Biographies (continued)

**Dr Don Beck** Don Beck has been developing, implementing, and teaching the evolutionary theory of Spiral Dynamics for more than three decades. As cofounder of the National Values Center in Denton, Texas, and CEO of the Spiral Dynamics Group, Inc., Beck uses the Spiral Dynamics model to effect large-scale systems change in and among various sectors and societies of the world. He is the author of 'Spiral Dynamics: Mastering Values, Leadership & Change', written with Christopher Cowan in 1996.

Dr Beck's long consulting career has taken him to such diverse settings as 10 Downing Street to speak with Tony Blair's Policy Unit; the south side of Chicago to address the problems faced by inner-city schools; the World Bank to consider the future of Afghanistan; and the boardrooms of major banks, energy companies, airlines, and government agencies. In his 63 trips to South Africa between 1981 and 1988, he had significant impact on political leaders, the business sector, religious leadership, and the general public in order to help bring about the peaceful transition from apartheid to democracy. His experiences there led him to write 'The Crucible: Forging South Africa's Future' (1991) with Graham Linscott.

Before his work in South Africa, Beck taught for twenty years at the University of North Texas. There he was named Outstanding Professor in 1978, named Honor Professor in 1979, and listed as an 'Outstanding Educator in America' in 1980. Don Beck lives in Texas, USA. For more information, go to [www.spiraldynamics.net](http://www.spiraldynamics.net) and [www.humanemergence.org](http://www.humanemergence.org).

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## ***Conference venue***

City Centre, 1051 Budapest, Bajcsy-Zsilinszky út 12, Hungary  
<http://citycenter.irodahaz.info/?lang=eng>

## ***Language***

There will be a simultaneous translation between Hungarian and English for all lectures, and for selected workshops.

## ***Registration Procedure***

Please send the attached registration form to:  
**Waldorf Ház (For the attention of: Andrea Liszka)**  
**1075 Budapest, Asbóth u. 17**  
**Hungary**  
**E-mail: [waldorfhaz@waldorf.hu](mailto:waldorfhaz@waldorf.hu)**  
**Telephone: +36 30 327 3611, Fax: + 36 1 413 6866**

## ***Fee***

€250 per person. This includes participation in all parts of the conference (including workshops), coffee and tea during the scheduled breaks, and two meals (lunch on both Thursday and Friday)

For people from Eastern and Central Europe it may be possible to offer a discretionary reduction of up to 60% if there is financial difficulty. Please apply by 01 August 2010 to Andrea Liszka: [waldorfhaz@waldorf.hu](mailto:waldorfhaz@waldorf.hu)

## ***Accommodation***

Accommodation arrangements must be made separately as this is not covered by the conference fee. A list of possible venues (website links) can be found on the last page.

## ***Bank***

K&H Bank Zrt. (1051 Budapest, Vigadó tér 1)  
Bank identity code: 0012-214849-100  
Swift code: OKHBHUHB, account number IBAN: HU17 1040 0126 5049 5256 5257 1004

## ***Cancellation terms***

- 75% refund of the fee on cancellations received in writing before August 1, 2010
- 50% refund of the fee on cancellations received in writing after August 1 and before September 1, 2010
- From 01 September 2010 onward it will not be possible to give a refund, however someone else may take the place of the person who cannot attend.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> International Alliance for Childhood Conference

13 – 16 October 2010

at the City Center, Budapest, Hungary

**Registration Form**

**Please complete a form for each person attending. Thank you!**

**If you prefer to complete the form online, [click here](#)**

**Fees** - Tick the box that applies to you:  €250 per person

Application for reduced rate of: €\_\_\_\_\_

Full name: \_\_\_\_\_

Job title: \_\_\_\_\_

Organisation (include website): \_\_\_\_\_

Full address (include city, country and post code): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have special dietary requirements? Yes No

If yes, please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

I will participate in the conference 'Childhood in Balance'

Date:\_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

***Please note: registration is complete only when payment has been accepted***

Please send this registration form as soon as possible to:

**Andrea Liszka, Waldorf Ház**

**1075 Budapest, Asbóth u. 17, Hungary**

**E-mail: [waldorfhaz@waldorf.hu](mailto:waldorfhaz@waldorf.hu)**

**Telephone: +36 30 327 3611 Fax: + 36 1 413 6866**

The conference is supported and sponsored by the following organisations:



FUNDACIÓN  
BOTÍN



EAC  
EA

Education, Audiovisual & Culture  
Executive Agency



Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme

2010  
European Year  
for Combating  
Poverty and  
Social Exclusion

## **Additional Information**

This is the third International Alliance for Childhood conference. The first Alliance for Childhood conference was held in October 2000, in Brussels. The theme was 'Rights to Children, a Bridge for the Future'. It was a great success and laid the foundations for many networks in Europe and Latin America, where work was then begun along the lines and philosophy elaborated in this conference.

In Salzburg, Austria in 2005, together with the German organisation 'Mit Kindern wachsen' the Alliance for Childhood organised another conference, this time on the theme of 'Wie Kinder Lernen' ('How Children Learn'). About 230 people from ten countries participated, and again it was a great success. As a spin off from that conference, the Alliance for Childhood European Network Group was set up in Brussels; an initiative that has also been very successful. This group subsequently set up the Working Group on the Quality of Childhood within the European Parliament and has met every two months since December 2006.

The Alliance for Childhood is a grassroots initiative which has been flourishing throughout Europe, Latin America and the USA. During the last few years, we have discovered that systematically pushing for improvements in the quality of childhood with important actors and stakeholders is extremely worthwhile.

We see that over a broad range of areas, governmental agencies and others develop policies that are in line with the visions brought forward by the activists within the Alliance for Childhood and other groupings.

We also discovered that each organisation develops its activities based on a certain image of the child. An organisation can perceive a child as a future combatant in the global economic competition, someone who must ensure the prosperity of the country. Such a view is not neutral, because it will determine all activities and policies undertaken by that organisation. The Alliance for Childhood has developed its own perception in this respect, and dialogues about this with other stakeholders and actors.

The image held by the Alliance for Childhood was inspired by many great thinkers like Rudolf Steiner, Maria Montessori and Loris Malaguzzi (founder of the Reggio Emilio Early Childhood approach in Italy). The latter spoke about the 'rich child':

*'... not materially rich, but a child born with great potential that can be expressed in a hundred languages; an active learner, seeking the meaning of the world from birth, a co-creator of knowledge, identity, culture and values; a child that can live, learn, listen and communicate, but always in relation with others; the whole child, the child with body, mind, emotions, creativity, history and social identity; an individual whose individuality and autonomy depend on interdependence, and who needs and wants connections with other children and adults; a citizen with a place in society, a subject of rights whom the society must respect and support.'*

We have chosen the theme for this conference as 'Childhood in Balance' because we believe it is now necessary for all people and organisations who work with or for children to reflect on this concept and to find their own balance within it.

If we take for instance, the subject of safety, we will all agree that our children should grow up in a safe environment. However, we can also exaggerate this - as was well written about by Tim Gill in his book, 'No Fear: Growing Up In A Risk Averse Society'. In this book he explains that today, all risk is taken away from children, which is actually harmful to them. Children need some challenges and risks for his or her growth as a human being. This is the case for all other childhood domains as well, which is why we have chosen the theme of Childhood in Balance as the red thread for our conference.

This conference explores the subject of childhood from birth until adulthood, so it does not only focus on early childhood. We will pursue various objectives:

- to share new insights with each other about the subject in question and to support and encourage each other in the work we do. In this way we strengthen and form alliances within the community working toward improving the quality of childhood on local, regional, national and international levels
- to develop concrete policy proposals for the various levels on which we work
- as the conference is being held in Hungary, we will have a special focus on the situation in that country.

**We look forward to seeing you there!**

## **Hotels and Accommodation**

[http://www.budapesthotelreservation.hu/hotels/budapest\\_central\\_opera\\_apartments.EN.php](http://www.budapesthotelreservation.hu/hotels/budapest_central_opera_apartments.EN.php)

[http://www.budapesthotelreservation.hu/hotels/city\\_hotel\\_ring.EN.php](http://www.budapesthotelreservation.hu/hotels/city_hotel_ring.EN.php)

[http://www.budapesthotelreservation.hu/hotels/cleo\\_apartman\\_opera.EN.php](http://www.budapesthotelreservation.hu/hotels/cleo_apartman_opera.EN.php)

[http://www.budapesthotelreservation.hu/hotels/agape\\_apartments.EN.php](http://www.budapesthotelreservation.hu/hotels/agape_apartments.EN.php)

<http://www.hotels-in-budapest-hungary.com/hotelbenczur.php>

<http://www.hotels-in-budapest-hungary.com/centralhotel21.php>

<http://www.hotels-in-budapest-hungary.com/sohoboutiquehotel.php>

<http://www.hotelpapillon.hu/index.php>

<http://www.hotelcentral-basilica.hu/page/page.html>

[http://www.budapesthotelreservation.hu/hotels/ibis\\_budapest\\_emke.EN.php](http://www.budapesthotelreservation.hu/hotels/ibis_budapest_emke.EN.php)

[http://www.budapesthotelreservation.hu/hotels/dominik\\_panzio.EN.php](http://www.budapesthotelreservation.hu/hotels/dominik_panzio.EN.php)

<http://www.atriumhotelbudapest.com/>

[http://www.budapesthotelreservation.hu/hotels/hotel\\_medosz.EN.php](http://www.budapesthotelreservation.hu/hotels/hotel_medosz.EN.php)

[http://www.budapesthotelreservation.hu/hotels/hotel\\_pest.EN.php](http://www.budapesthotelreservation.hu/hotels/hotel_pest.EN.php)

[http://www.budapesthotelreservation.hu/hotels/hotel\\_queen\\_mary.EN.php](http://www.budapesthotelreservation.hu/hotels/hotel_queen_mary.EN.php)