



1/ Historical step forward for the Eurythmy

In March 2006 the Eurythmy School within the Rudolf Steinerhögskolan (the Rudolf Steiner College), Järna compiled three modules within the Integrated Masters Programme offered by the University of Plymouth's Faculty of Education in the UK.

Two Järna representatives, Örjan Retsler, CEO, and Göran Krantz, head of the Eurythmy department, at the Rudolf Steinerhögskolan, flew to the university campus in Devon for the formal approval event which comprised a wide-ranging discussion with a panel of university academic staff. At the end of the meeting the panel expressed their delight at the intellectual depth of the three modules, and the ways in which the modules would stimulate critical reflection upon the practice of Eurythmy in a rich variety of contexts.

The modules had been written by Göran Krantz with the primary purpose of encouraging deeper knowledge, wider reading and enhanced practice, and examining Eurythmy in the rapidly changing educational and artistic environments existing around the world today.

The three modules are:

Eurythmy; art and human development. Relationship with physiological and psychological development.

Teaching and learning Eurythmy; music and movement. Focus on music in relation to Eurythmy.

Teaching and learning Eurythmy; language and movement. Focus on language in relation to music.

The team at Järna have consulted very widely about the modules, and agreed with the University of Plymouth that they will form part of a complete Eurythmy pathway within the Faculty of Education's Integrated Masters Programme (IMP). It is an exciting and challenging initiative which will bring Eurythmists together in a research culture calculated to enrich their work through seminars, workshops, projects and the creation of imaginative assignments.

The Eurythmy modules will be based at Järna, and the University has appointed a Project Manager, Dr David Parker, who is responsible for ensuring the Eurythmy pathway runs smoothly, for training the overseas-based tutors running the modules and for ensuring the students have the best possible experiences on the Integrated Masters Programme. The University has shown a commitment to the Eurythmy pathway, and the documents

governing the Järna work within the Integrated Masters Programme have been completed and it is anticipated that their formal signing in May will pave the way for the first module to begin in September.

The idea of a Master in Eurythmy is a fruit of the European Masters Programme for Steiner Waldorf, a Comenius 2.1 project funded by the European Commission's Socrates Programme, where the University of Plymouth and the Rudolf Steinerhögskolan were two of the partners. The others were Institut für Waldorfpädagogik Witten-Annen, Germany, Hogeschool Helicon, the Netherlands and the Solymar Institute, Hungary, in co-operation with the European Council for Steiner Waldorf Education. These five institutions and ECSWE are continuing their collaborative work although the Comenius funding has finished and we are awaiting the Commission's review of the whole project. A new cohort of MA students is being assembled in the UK and Helicon is about to embark on its newly validated MA course. The Initiative für Praxis Forschung, Switzerland, is also developing their own further Masters projects based on the Comenius initiative.

Further information will be published on www.steinerhogskolan.se/index.php?id=213.

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2/ TV-Euronews went to Klagenfurt Waldorf School

Klagenfurt Waldorf school was among 3734 schools in Europe that registered for the "European Spring day". After being asked by the EU to present a programme for the spring day, TV-Euronews chose to visit Klagenfurt Waldorf school out of the 3734!. The reason for this was the intense activity the school has had on a European level in creatively and successfully incorporating the EU programmes into their school curriculum. A full report of this event, in German will be posted on the ECSWE website.

3/ EURIDICE survey "Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) at School in Europe"

Through this form of educational provision, pupils learn school subjects in the curriculum while at the same time exercising and improving their language skills.

EURIDICE (The information network on education in Europe) published a survey in November 2005 that gives a first "European" insight into content and language integrated learning. It contains a detailed analysis of how the provision of CLIL is organized, the status of the target languages, the subjects concerned in the curriculum, and measures for the training and recruitment of appropriate teachers, the shortage of whom is identified as one of the main barriers to implementing this type of tuition. This document is available on the Internet (www.eurydice.org).

4/ CED Paper “The Economic Benefits of High-Quality Early Childhood Programs: What makes the Difference?”

The early childhood field is deeply influenced by three studies of high-quality early education programs that began in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s and have continued to the present time - the High/scope Perry Preschool Project, the Abecedarian Project, and the Chicago Child- Parent Centers (CPC) – because these studies provide strong evidence of the economic benefits of early childhood education as an economic investment.

The Committee for Economic Development (CED) published on February 2006 a paper in response to the tendency of a number of people to use the findings from these three studies to justify any and all early childhood programs.

The paper is available at the Alliance for Childhood website:
(<http://www.allianceforchildhood.org.uk/News&Views.htm>)

5/ European Parliament: Intergroup on Family and Protection of Childhood

ECSWE has been invited to attend the next meeting of the EP Intergroup on Family and Protection of Childhood which will take place in Strasbourg on Wednesday the 5th of April from 14.00 to 15.30 in room SDM S3. Unfortunately the notice was too short to actually be there but it is the first result of discussions with the Chair of the Intergroup, Mrs Panayotopoulos-Cassiotou MEP, about ECSWE’s membership of the group. We are also discussing with Karin Resetarits MEP whether the above group meets our requirements or whether we should start up our own specific working group in collaboration with her.

6/ Good news from Croatia

There is good news from Croatia, from where Christopher Clouder has just returned after a short visit to Rijeka. The local town council have offered to pay 200€ a month for an Eurythmist at the school and there is a prospect of much larger building being made available to the school from this summer. Also the Government has increased its subsidy to around 30% of the running costs that state schools receive. From the 24 April until the 28th there will be series of celebrations for the tenth birthday of the school and one event will be a forum on alternative education with representatives of alternative schools and other educationalists. As the Minister is showing a positive interest in Steiner education and giving greater recognition to alternative educational provision, ECSWE is writing again to him expressing support for these moves and raising certain questions regarding future policy. On this occasion Christopher also spent three days working with the classes and teachers of the Upper School in Ljubljana.

7/ Rights of the children

In the last few months the Rights of the children has been the theme of several conferences and reports at European level. The European Children’s Network (Euronet)

has organized a conference in Brussels for the launch of the report “*What about us? Children’s rights in the European Union: next steps*”

Margareta Van Raemdonck representing ECSWE was present at the conference. You can find her report in the attachment to this newsletter.

The second draft of the Communication on the Rights of the Child from DG Justice, Freedom and Security of the European Commission is now available. If interested, please contact: ecswe@waldorf.net.

8/ “Education towards Courage”

A one day conference entitled “Education towards Courage” was held in Edinburgh on 9th March on the theme of conflict and traumatized children, taking Bosnia/Herzegovina as the main focus. It was organized by the Edinburgh Steiner School, the Society for Living Traditions and Christopher Clouder on behalf of ECSWE/SWSF. A report of the morning session, which will also be published in the SWSF newsletter, is attached. A round table took place in the afternoon in which the contributors had a lively discussion and ideas for further collaboration were aired.

9/ Hungary: third “Early Year symposium”

On the 4th March the third “Early Year symposium” under the general title of “Childhood for Life” organized by the Hungarian Waldorf Association took place near Budapest. This was the third in a series where Geseke Lungren and Christopher Clouder are the keynote speakers. As reported by Lazlo Vargas at the last Council meeting, these sessions have been very well attended and there is much enthusiasm to continue working in this way. Unfortunately Geseke was unable to reach the venue this time after a frustrating day trying to reach Budapest at a chaotic snow-bound Amsterdam airport and then later Paris, that was paralyzed by a strike. However she did eventually find her way home. The lectures from these occasions are published in Hungarian and we are looking to see if English versions can be made available. The participants have asked for a continuation and two more such events are planned for the next school year.

10/ Alliance for Childhood conference report

Two reports of the Alliance For Childhood conference held last October in Salzburg are available in the Alliance for Childhood website:

<http://www.allianceforchildhood.org.uk/News/Salzconference.htm>

11/ ECSWE General Assembly

At the beginning of the year, Amsterdam hosted the ECSWE general Assembly, which saw for the first time the participation of Slovakia and Poland as formal members. Croatia also attended with guest status.

12/ ECSWE council meeting in January 2007

The ECSWE council meeting on the 19th to 21st January will be held in Poland. Our colleagues there are deciding on the venue.

NB.

- Please distribute this ECSWE NEWS to other interested parties, such as member schools and kindergartens, or send to the office the email addresses of those who you feel would be interested in receiving a copy.

- Please remind colleagues that INTERTEC is taking place from the 3rd to the 6th of May 2006 in Järna (Sweden)

Chiara Carones and Christopher Clouder