



ECCE Link

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1. Easter mystery

The word Easter is derived from 'Passah' which means 'dancing' in Syriac Arabic. It expresses joy because the light has conquered the darkness.

The various Gospels tell that Christ healed the sick, lepers, the lame, the paralyzed, the blind, the deaf, and demon-possessed people. They are all representatives of that time, two thousand years ago, in which hardening hindered further development and in which man drifted further and further away from the divine plan of creation.

Only Christ, the Spiritual Sun, could reverse this downward trend.

With his sacrifice, his crucifixion and his Resurrection, every human being on earth was once again given the opportunity to find the way to his higher self and to the spiritual world.

The healing effect of Christ on earth concerns all people, regardless of any religion. However, it can become more effective when we absorb the Christ power into our hearts.

During the Holy Week and Easter morning, all of this was first inserted into the earth. This impulse is renewed every year.

I wish you a blessed Easter.

Alexandra Buijsman



Fra Angelico – Women at the grave



2a. Michael Mullan about solidarity with refugees of Ukraine in Austria

In the first weeks of the war a Ukrainian family consisting of grandmother, mother and 5 endearing children reached the Dorfgemeinschaft Breitenfurt, Austria. We were happy to provide this family with a small apartment in one of new buildings so that they and especially the children could have a secure and protective environment to recover from the traumatic exodus out of Ukraine.

Thankfully and with the help of our local Mayor we have been able to provide the family with a larger apartment in a nearby village and do all the necessary registration work.



Here the family see their new apartment provided free of charge by a friend.

The children have now started school and kindergarten and the family have been equipped with a bank account, support from the state for every member and we supply a daily midday meal until they are able to cook and provide for themselves. Just the other day the family took part in preparing our little garden to plant vegetables. Students from the Rudolph Steiner Seminar were involved in caring for the children. We have also been able to secure an apartment for a second family who two children of which one is in need of special care. This little boy in a wheel chair will be able to visit the Karl Schubert School in Vienna from Monday onwards. Although these people have been through unimaginable stress and fear they are all cheerful and extremely grateful, that all so far has gone well for them. With them we join and pray that they will soon be able to return in peace to join their loved fathers and brothers who stayed behind to protect their country. Many parents and friends have contributed donations to support this effort. We are very thankful.



Everybody is enthusiastic about getting the garden work done.



The two youngest children with their grandmother taking a break from the garden work. A student plays lively tunes to keep them happy.



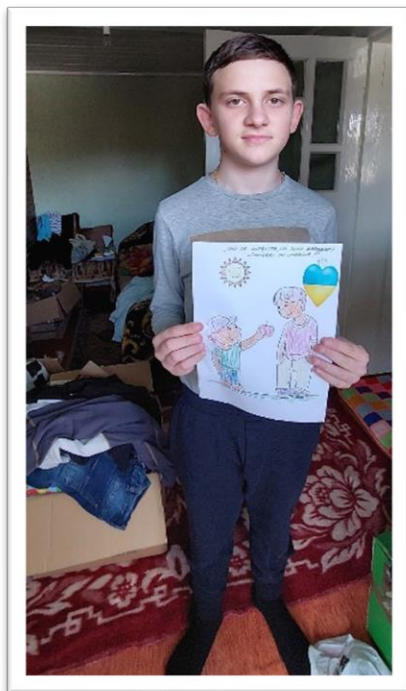
*„We must eradicate from the soul
All fear and terror of what comes towards man out of the future.
We must acquire serenity
In all feelings and sensations about the future.
We must look forward with absolute equanimity
To everything that may come.
And we must think only that whatever comes
Is given to us by a world-directive full of wisdom.
It is part of what we must learn in this age,
namely, to live out of pure trust,
Without any security in existence.
Trust in the ever present help
Of the spiritual world.
Truly, nothing else will do
If our courage is not to fail us.
And let us seek the awakening from within ourselves
Every morning and every evening.” - **Rudolf Steiner***

Report by Michael Mullan, Dorfgemeinschaften Wienerwaldsee, Austria



2b. Roxana & John Byrde about solidarity with refugees of Ukraine in Romania

After the Russian invasion started, the Anthroposophic Council for Inclusive Social Development, in their Spring Newsletter, asked for support for the refugees.



Through the Council we messaged the centres at Kyiv and Kharkiv offering our help and hospitality to anyone able to reach a Romanian border. From Kharkiv the reply was summary: "We are staying in Ukraine." Kyiv replied: "For right now we - students, teachers, our families - who didn't have a chance to leave, [have] found the best places we can and we will stay here in Kyiv and out of the city. Our only full-time work right now is to stay safe. We hope this madness will end and our kids will return to the schools and normal life they need so much. Peace to us all!"

Within days of the invasion, local groups of people had started organising themselves to receive Ukrainian refugees and we offered what places and help we could.



Our co-workers contributed to a local initiative helping refugees staying near the Moldovan border with Ukraine, for Moldova has few resources itself. Soon, the Romanian Waldorf schools were organising support and hospitality for children and families from the Ukrainian schools, as well as arranging transport for those who wanted to get further into Europe or who had people they could join.

Now follows an account from friends of our groupwork in Bucharest: Boyka had left her son – just turned 18 years old – in hospital for an operation the day before the bombing started in her town. The next day she had to flee with her young daughter to Romania, obliged to leave her son behind who was now of military age. At the main Bucharest rail station, with no money and only a plastic bag in her hand with some things for her child and together with another fifty people, she was met by a group of NGO volunteers. She and the other women and children are

lodged in a hotel, where a further 50 refugees are soon expected to join them.



The NGO organizer invited three friends of ours specialized in the art of biography to meet these people – those who wanted – to offer a ray of light at this crossroads in their lives, a critical juncture in the destiny of the Ukrainian people and without doubt for the fate of us all here. In the meeting, hearts opened and warmth flowed despite the profound shock the women are still under. The session opened with simple eurythmy exercises to engender a balanced inner and social space. Then came biography exercises and the participants raising questions:



What's happening in my life? Should I return to Ukraine to help there? What should I do here for now? Work? How will our life go forward?



Questions that did not receive answers yet. Meanwhile the children were there around the group, playing and unaware of the dilemmas facing their mothers. Communication was largely through the heart as only one, a young circus clown, could speak some English and translate (and no one was prepared to speak Russian!). During the meeting, a mobile phone alarm rang out,

warning of an imminent bombing raid at the refugee's town in Ukraine. Hearts leapt, Boyka concerned for her hospitalized son, imagining her relatives and neighbours running to the bomb shelters.

Our friend Anca Barbu, who recounted the meeting to us, was impressed by the dignity of the women in their suffering, with their hope and trust that the situation in Ukraine will resolve and their children be able to return home to grow up. She spoke of their beauty that shone through the sorrow they were enduring, and the resignation toward what they were going through.

Next week, our Casa Rozei bakers will be busy baking the biscuits that we will bring to the 100 people at the hotel and their volunteer supporters helping them start their new phase of life away from home, without husbands and fathers. The volunteers are becoming exhausted, working there up to 18 hours a day and emotionally drained by the situations they encounter. Together we will review this unfolding situation with the volunteers and NGO leaders, to see how they can better cope. We have known these leaders, Bianca and Catalin Albu, and their fellow biography artists for several years and worked together with them. We hope to go a step further...

The stories now coming out of how children and civilians have been treated and abused in the previously occupied zones around Kyiv, demonstrate how important it is to evacuate children from potential war zones pre-emptively, especially those areas subject to shelling and bombing – inherently indiscriminate and always traumatising. Our immediate task is with the refugees here but there are also far more IDPs, 'internally displaced persons', evacuees whose plight is of as much concern as for those who have managed to leave their country. All have had to abandon their home context with the families often split up. The advantage for emigration countries like Ukraine is that people often have relatives and friends abroad or elsewhere in the country they can move to.

Isn't the question of "How can it happen, isn't this the 21st century?" irrelevant and even ridiculous? We know full well that we as individuals and as societies and cultures are still so self-centred and sleepy that our failings can lead to mistakes, to conflict and even war. Global and societal crises become ever more frequent and deeper in their impact, awakening us but so often paralysing us too.

In all this, we in curative education and social therapy have great advantages: we have learnt to identify the remedial potential of a grave situation, to recognise that working together we can create contexts for resolving the insoluble, that good can become... if we rise to the challenge. We can contribute to promoting the wellbeing and integration of uprooted people in collaboration with other support organisations. We can respond with all the experience and tools we have gathered through decades of practising remedial education and social inclusion, of working outside the comfort zone.

Report by Roxana & John Byrde, Urlati, Romania

3. Inklusive European Congress «moving borders» 15. – 18. Juni 2022, Zürich



The time has finally come to be able to present you with the attractive and diverse detailed program for the inclusive European congress from June 15th to 18th, 2022 in Zurich, Switzerland

Online registration has also been activated.

All information about the program and detailed conference information as well as online registration can be found on the conference website: <https://k22.vahs.ch>

Please forward and disseminate this information in your environment.



4. Reflection of the ECCE Committee about the situation of ECCE, word of the President

The arguments to dissolve ECCE

Dear ECCE members,

As we look to the statutes of ECCE, the purpose of the association is to promote the interest and needs of persons with special needs within Europe.

These statutes go back to the year 1992. The year our association was founded. During the first 2 decades of the existence of ECCE, a lot of work was done to achieve these goals by empowering parents organisations to raise their voice on behalf of their children with special needs. Also empowering parents organisations to work together on European level while cooperating with ECCE.

In 2006 the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, to which ECCE has contributed, was accepted by the United Nations (UNCRPD). 160 Countries, including all European countries, signed that Convention and most of them ratified it as well. As ECCE, we contributed to an important paradigm shift: persons with special needs are no longer regarded as depended persons, but as independent citizens in need of special support to fully participate in society.

Between 1992 and 2022, we see that the purpose of ECCE to give persons with special needs and their families a voice in Europe in many cases has been fulfilled. Through the membership and co-working of ECCE with EDF (European Disability Forum), EASPD (European Association of Service providers for Persons with Disabilities) and Inclusion Europe, ECCE contributed by emphasizing the importance of free choice for persons with special needs about their own lives.

Together with the Anthroposophic Council for Inclusive Social Development at the Goetheanum, ELIANT and the last 3 years with Socialartists, ECCE linked itself to the anthroposophical worldwide movement of Curative Education and Social Therapy.

Today we see that the ideal and a lot of the goals of ECCE live strongly in all these organisations.

In the meanwhile, ECCE experienced that national parents organisations were dissolving or linked themselves to organisations in neighbouring countries to strengthen each other. So many of them withdrew from ECCE membership. Some professional organisations withdrew as well, considering that they can reach the goals of ECCE by themselves and/or through other international organisations, first of all through the Council of which they are already members. Within the last 10 years the number of member organisations of ECCE decreased from 28 to 11.

That is why the Committee proposes to dissolve ECCE.

The Leadership team of the Anthroposophic Council for Inclusive Social Development supports the decision of dissolving ECCE and will continue working with the parents, relatives and persons with special needs. Everyone who was involved with ECCE may participate in this further development.

On behalf of the ECCE Committee members
Béatrice Cussac-de Verteuil, ECCE President

Paris, March 18, 2022



5. ECCE Exceptional General Meeting 2022, Zurich, June 18th, – 2 – 4 pm

The Exceptional General Meeting 2022 is planned to be held after the Congress “Moving borders” June 15-18, 2022 in the center of Zurich, Switzerland.

As explained above by Béatrice Cussac-de Verteuil the ECCE Committee will propose the dissolution of ECCE in this **exceptional General Meeting**.

You are kindly requested to attend this exceptional General Meeting, so that **you can vote** about the proposed dissolution of ECCE in this meeting in Zürich.

If you will not attend this exceptional General Meeting we kindly ask you to transfer your proxy-vote to an other ECCE member.

Please save the date!



ECCE wishes you a blessed Easter