

Building a global and inspirational movement towards ‘Education by All for the Well-being of Children’

Organised by: Universal Education Foundation during the Annual General Assembly and Conference of the European Foundations Centre (Istanbul, 27th to 31st May 2008)

Following the meetings held during the 2007 Annual General Assembly and Conference (AGA) of the European Foundations Centre (EFC) in Madrid, a number of foundations agreed to participate in a global and inspirational movement towards education by all for the well-being of children, young people, and those who surround them. Later, in March 2008, a workshop was organised by Universal Education Foundation (UEF) and the Evens Foundation in Paris in order to have an in-depth exchange among the foundations about insights, vision, purpose, success factors, and goals. Discussions focused on joint work, including a project within the EFC’s Education and Youth Interest Group, and proposals for a meeting planned for the AGA in Istanbul.

In Istanbul, a pre-conference dinner was attended by representatives of 8 foundations and the EFC. We reflected on how our own learning environments, involving nurturing and hindering experiences, could have been more conducive to our well-being when we were children, and remembered the teachers/educators who supported our overall development, encouraging positive learning and growth. This process brought together approximately 20 people from 16 foundations and non-profit organisations primarily to discuss proposed initiatives we would like to take forward together. This has led to a consolidation of purpose and an enlargement of the core group of foundations who want to work together towards the vision of ‘Education by All for the Well-being of Children’. There are currently 12 foundations, including 2 in Turkey and 3 in the Middle East (UEF, Mother Children Education Foundation[ACEV], Bertelsmann Stiftung, Robert Bosch Stiftung, Evens Foundation, Freudenberg Stiftung, Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian, Guerrand-Hermès Foundation for Peace, Jordan River Foundation, Makhzoumi Foundation, [Türkiye Eğitim Gönüllüleri Vakfı](#) (TEGV), Welfare Association).

Outcomes and plans:

- We will organise a 2-day workshop in Autumn 2008 to deepen our mutual knowledge and understanding of each other’s work in the specific direction of making learning environments more conducive to well-being, as well as to develop the well-being concept and framework and plan for a conference in 2009.
 - The workshop will be hosted by the Bertelsmann Foundation in Berlin. The organising group members are from UEF, Bertelsmann Stiftung, Guerrand-Hermès Foundation for Peace, and ACEV. To ensure maximum effectiveness and the best use of our time, we are designing an in-depth survey for the group of foundations on their insights, vision, purpose, success factors, goals and activities. The data will be collated in advance so that we have a first level of understanding of our respective approaches for improving the well-being of children and young people. The information will be supplemented by site visits carried out by UEF.
 - A conference in Brussels has been proposed for the first or second semester of 2009, which will target the EU and other decision-makers, as well as international organisations and a broader group of foundations, non-profits, and government bodies.
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We have agreed, in principle, to be part of the EFC's Education and Youth Interest Group, which will be changing its name to 'Children and Youth'. 'Education by All for the Well-being of Children' could become one project under this umbrella, alongside YEPP.

Foundations interested in finding out more about this initiative are cordially invited to contact Jean Gordon (Coordinator European Operations, UEF) at uef-eba@orange.fr and telephone: +33 144 05 40 07.
