

Foundations from Europe and the Middle East meet in Berlin to launch their movement on the well-being of children

21 representatives from ten foundations in Europe and the Middle East met in Berlin in November 2008 to discuss the 'Education by All for the Well-being of Children' initiative.

The workshop, endorsed by the EFC, was convened by Universal Education Foundation and hosted in Berlin by the Bertelsmann Stiftung. The initiative was first presented to the EFC AGA in 2005, and since then a group of foundations have come together to explore how they can work together towards building a global and inspirational movement for 'Education By All for the Well-being of Children'. A series of EFC conference sessions and then a workshop in Paris began to identify a joint plan for the group. In preparation for the Berlin workshop, a survey of 12 foundations was carried out between August and October 2008 to form a shared baseline of information and understanding about how each other's work contributes to children's and young people's well-being. In Berlin, the foundations discussed how to work together within the initiative to further it strategically through coordinated and concrete actions.

The next steps will include re-launching the EFC's 'Youth and Education' Interest Group (IG), by establishing a 'Children and Youth' IG and creating the 'Education By All for the Well-being of Children' project within it to provide foundations with the institutional support they need to develop this initiative further. This establishment of the IG is coordinated by the Bertelsmann Stiftung, the Freudenberg Stiftung, the Robert Bosch Stiftung and Universal Education Foundation, all of whom are vital contributors in advancing this initiative.

The newly agreed purpose of the initiative is: **“We, foundations, members of the EFC IG Children and Youth, will engage in joint projects and will refocus our educational activities so that children and young people in more and more countries in Europe and elsewhere experience improved well-being in their learning environments, as underlined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.”**

The following foundations participated in the workshop: ACEV (Mother Children Education Foundation) (Turkey), Bertelsmann Stiftung (Germany), Evens Foundation (Belgium), Freudenberg Stiftung (Germany), Guerrand-Hermes Foundation for Peace (UK), Makhzoumi Foundation (Lebanon), Robert Bosch Stiftung (Germany), Türkiye Eitim Gönüllüleri Vakfı (Turkey), Universal Education Foundation (France), and Welfare Association (Jordan). In addition, the Jordan River Foundation (Jordan) and the Calouste Gulbenkian Fundação also participated in the survey.