



## Education by All for the Well-Being of Children – Wales

The first European pilot of the UEF program of activities was organized in **Wales** (UK), September 2007 through the establishment of **Education by All for the Well-Being of Children – Wales** for which UEF recently received the support of the Minister for Children.

### Letter from Jane Hutt, Minister for Assembly Business, Equalities and Children 19<sup>th</sup> February 2007

*extract:*

"Thank you for your letter dated 30 January 2007. I was also delighted to meet with you and learn of UEF's work. I am particularly pleased with your achievements in relation to **Education by All for the Well-Being of Children**. This agenda very much echoes the Assembly's philosophy towards children's well being and development. Similarly the findings of UEF's 'Voices of Children Survey', reflect our commitment to ensuring young people's views are properly acknowledged, valued and help influence policy making and practice on the ground. I am delighted therefore to support your intention to establish a European base here in Wales and am pleased to provide a statement of support to this effect."

The Welsh government is highly focused on giving a voice to children. Since Wales signed the UN Declaration of Children's Rights a few years ago, the government has been developing policies to ensure that children's rights are a reality and that all aspects of government pay attention to what they have to say. Furthermore policy in Wales is moving from taking account of children's rights and welfare, towards putting a focus on their well-being. This provides an excellent background for UEF to pilot its program and to find out what Welsh children have to say about the impacts of their learning environments on their well being.

Under UEF license provisions, we have signed an agreement with our main partner in Wales, the University of Wales Institute Cardiff (UWIC) who will lead the establishment of **Education By All for the Well-Being of Children – Wales**. UWIC is a major education and healthcare staff training university in Wales and has set up a cross-department working group within the university to take forward the program. The Voice of Children qualitative surveys will be carried out by the First Campus team at UWIC. First Campus is an innovative government funded project, to promote higher education in Wales by establishing a system of support for pupils who have the potential to progress to higher education but may not have the aspirations or information.

During summer 2007, UWIC established a board of partners including the Welsh Youth Parliament, 'Funky Dragon', as well as representatives from local businesses, NGOs and philanthropies.

Funky Dragon is the main vehicle for listening to children and young people in Wales. It was established as the youth parliament from 2000, is funded by government but provides an independent voice. It is very interesting for UEF to work with a body that has children under 18 years old as full voting members on its Management Committee.