



IASWECE

International Association for
Steiner/Waldorf Early Childhood Education

Annual Report 2021





Dear friends, colleagues, donors and supporters,

We are pleased to present you with our 2021 Annual Report, which will inform you about the work of IASWECE and how we used your contributions to realize our intentions.

2021 was a year of endurance and keeping faith that we would find our way through this paralyzing time of limitations and uncertainties. In the first year of the pandemic the online alternatives for meetings, training and mentoring could still build on the lived experience of earlier in-person meetings but this was becoming harder in the second year. The need and longing to have in-person meetings again grew stronger each month. We all became painfully aware how much is lost if direct human encounters are not possible and can't be nourished, and we came to understand through experience that something essential happens in being together with others in real time and space. And so we kept hoping and planning for in-person meetings, but each time we had to postpone them because - especially for our colleagues outside of Europe - this turned out to be still too early, and so we continued with online meetings throughout 2021.

The whole vaccination debate that kept societies in its grip also found its way into the working environments of several colleagues, which caused heated discussions on both sides of the spectrum and a lot of stress for everyone involved. Government regulations in countries varied widely, and it was not always easy to find the middle ground from which an individual point of view could be taken and upheld. Unfortunately, this meant that in some places, experienced colleagues ended their long term commitment to the places where they had worked. We hope that through our worldwide network, we can stay connected with them as colleagues in other fruitful ways.

In some European countries, in-person training could start again in summer, but for several training and mentoring projects, travel continued to be impossible, which again led to a substantial decrease in costs in many places. At the same time, we heard how in several initiatives, the loss of income due to the long closure of the kindergartens actually threatened their survival. The IASWECE Council decided therefore to create an Extra Support Fund that allowed us to give extra support to some of our projects and initiatives in need, such as in Armenia, Brazil, Fiji, Russia, UK and Vietnam.

2021 taught us to be steadfast in our beliefs and courageous in imagining new horizons. We understood that this imagining requires a careful listening to what is sounding in the world and what wants to reveal itself to us. This art of listening with an open heart depends on our ability to let go of our own preconceived opinions and to be brave enough to immerse ourselves in the reality of the other and then wake up again in ourselves, transformed through this new insight. This art of communication is something we try to develop in our meetings and work.

On behalf of our many IASWECE colleagues devoted to these tasks, we send you our heartfelt greetings.
Sincerely,

Tina Iwersen, Mary-G Hauptle, Oliver Langscheid, Janni Nicol (Board)
Clara Aerts, Susan Howard, Lourdes Tormes (Coordinating Group)

"Against a background of prevailing materialistic trends in education and modern culture, the protection, indeed the salvation, of childhood as the fundamental stage of each individual's unfolding life has become a worldwide pioneering work.

In our Association, all who serve the education of children, the training of educators, the cooperation with parents, and the development of human culture at large - spiritually, legally and economically, work together.

The fruitfulness of worldwide cooperation beyond all limits of language, politics and religion is a tried and tested experience."

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR'S ACTIVITIES FOR 2021

MEETING THE CHALLENGES OF THE TIMES

Due to the pandemic, the Council was unable to meet in person in 2021. However, the country representatives were able to come together by teleconference meetings throughout the year. The council continued its study work on the theme of diversity awareness, and council members from India and New Zealand, together with their colleagues, presented some of the specific realities regarding diversity in their countries. This work on diversity awareness is essential and will continue.

Limitations and safety regulations due to the pandemic had a far-reaching impact and forced us to reconsider and reimagine how a healthy balance can be found between individual freedom and social responsibility and how to cultivate a middle realm in the midst of growing polarization. Philipp Reubke from the Pedagogical Section joined the council meeting to explore these challenges and how to develop the capacities needed for healthy social life.

The pandemic also led some kindergartens into an existential crisis through which they were threatened with closure. IASWECE participated with the Friends of Waldorf Education and other partners in establishing an emergency fund to ensure their survival.

IASWECE TRAINERS NETWORK

More than 70 early childhood trainers have joined the IASWECE EC International Trainers Network to share resources and questions. IASWECE also hosted monthly teleconference meetings to discuss key issues in the development and renewal of Steiner Waldorf early childhood teacher education. IASWECE also participated in the International Teacher Education Project (ITEP) sponsored by the Pedagogical Section, and IASWECE colleagues attended monthly ITEP meetings to discuss formative guidelines for teacher education.

BIRTH TO THREE TRAINING COURSES

In addition to its process for the recognition of Steiner/Waldorf Birth to Seven training courses, the Council approved a new process for recognizing Birth to Three training courses, in recognition of the importance of supporting the growing work with the child from birth to three.

EURYTHMY IN KINDERGARTEN

IASWECE collaborated with a professional eurythmy association in Germany to publish *Eurythmy in Kindergarten - A Contemporary Approach to the Development of Speech and Movement*, written by Sabine Deimann for eurythmists, eurythmy lecturers and students, for kindergarten teachers and students in training, and for board members and interested parents. It was first published in Germany, under the title *Eurythmie in Kindergarten - Sprache und Bewegung Heute*.

"Love is higher than opinion. The most diverse opinions get along when people love each other...But this is one of the most important tasks of mankind today and in the future: this living with one another, this understanding with one another. And as long as this human community mood does not develop, there can be no talk of an occult development."

Rudolf Steiner (Stuttgart, 1. Sept. 1906, GA 95, S. 109–110)



FINANCIAL AND PEDAGOGICAL SUPPORT 2021

In 2021 several training courses and projects for mentoring and country collaboration needed to be postponed. IASWECE stayed in contact and provided financial and pedagogical support where possible. Funding was foreseen and partly used for projects in the following countries:

Armenia, Bulgaria, Central America, Colombia, Czech Republic, East Africa, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ivory Coast, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, Russia, South Africa, South East Europe, Turkey, Ukraine, Vietnam and Zimbabwe.

The following listing shows the total number of participants/country where activity was possible.



In addition to help bridge the difficult times extra support was given in 2021 to Steiner/Waldorf kindergartens in the following countries: Armenia, Brazil, England, Fiji, Iran, Ivory Coast, Russia, South Africa, and Vietnam.

TRAINING

Armenia: postponed
Bulgaria: 39
Colombia: 50 online alternative
Czech Republic: 40
Ethiopia: 43
Indonesia: 36 hybrid
Iran: 3
Ivory Coast: postponed
Hungary: 34
Kyrgyzstan: 20-30
Lebanon 23
Lithuania: 55
Madagascar: postponed
Malaysia: 40 online alternative
Myanmar: postponed
Nepal: postponed
Pakistan: 23 online alternative
Romania: 57
Russia: 44
South Africa: 15
South East Europe 22 online alternative/hybrid
Turkey: 49
Ukraine: postponed
Vietnam: 110 online alternative
Zimbabwe: 20

NEW GRADUATES

Bulgaria: 11
Czech Republic: 5
Egypt: 4
Hungary: 26
Romania: 14
Russia: 9
Vietnam: 3

MENTORING

Armenia: postponed
Fiji: postponed
Indonesia: postponed
Ivory Coast: 3 online alternative
Madagascar: postponed
Myanmar: 2 online alternative
Romania: 56
South Africa: 26
South East Europe 14 online alternative/hybrid
Turkey: 9

COUNTRY COLLABORATION MEETINGS

India: 85-100 online alternative
Romania: 60
South East Europe 150/90 online alternative/hybrid
Ukraine: postponed
Zimbabwe: 56

OUR PARTNERS - COLLABORATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Together with partners within the Steiner/Waldorf and anthroposophical movements, we worked on topics of common interest. In addition, especially within Europe, we reached out beyond our own movement to like-minded partners to bring to the attention of European policy makers the possibly harmful effects of some of the new trends being promoted for educational policy reform.

BIRTH TO THREE: THE CARE 1 PROJECT

The Care 1 project aims to contribute multiple points of view to support small children in developing their health and their own personalities through consideration of their physical, mental and spiritual needs. The Birth to Three working group in IASWECE wants to support this very valuable work, adding to it many different international perspectives and the possibility of sharing the outcomes of the work widely through IASWECE's Newsletter. The Care 1 conference that was planned for 2020, already postponed twice, will finally take place at the Goetheanum in June 2022: "I feel good in your eyes. How do trust, warmth and autonomy arise between adults and children in being together?".

THE DIGITALISATION OF CHILDHOOD

The use of digital technology is rapidly changing our lives and societies. The awareness of how it also influences the lives of young children is however not developing at the same pace. Nevertheless, family life and education experience how it is affecting the way children develop their relationship with themselves, others and the world. Especially in Europe, the use of digital devices is changing education, making it mandatory in some member states, even in kindergarten. IASWECE believes that supporting health and well-being is foundational and that an alternative pathway towards reaching media maturity should be taken, in which basic skills are first developed in an analogue way through meaningful and rich sensory experiences. In June 2021, IASWECE joined an Erasmus+ partnership on media education through the European Education and Culture Executive Agency. This partnership is coordinated by **ECSWE**, and includes 12 partners such as ENSWAP (European Network of Steiner/Waldorf Parents), the Alanus University, and several others. The project is called **HERMMES**, which stands for "Holistic Education, Resilience and Media Maturity in Educational Settings: Parents, teachers and researchers working towards a development-oriented and age-appropriate approach to ICT and media education". There are 5 aspects which the project will work on towards tangible results: a website, a framework curriculum, school policy guidelines, training for teachers, and webinars for parents. IASWECE also continues to work with our partners in **ECSWE** and **ELIANT** to follow the further development of the digital competence framework for citizens of the EU commission ([DigComp 2.2](#)).

THE ALLIANCE FOR CHILDHOOD (AFC)

Our Association has been an active partner in the Alliance for Childhood, an international network of individuals and organizations acting nationally and locally. The aim of the Alliance is to raise awareness in society for the importance of a good and healthy childhood, and to promote the development of human beings able to build a society based on a culture of peace, environmental sustainability and respect for all differences. The Alliance has different branches working in Brazil, the UK, the US, and Europe. In 2021 we started to prepare for its 25th anniversary on June 14th, 2022. To further **Quality of Childhood** in Europe, the European AFC branch has been organizing workshops (QoC meetings) in the EU parliament. In these meetings, experts are invited to present important insights out of their work and research that should be taken into account by policymakers. In 2021, the following topics were worked on: The Formation of Political Identities - What can we do?, Core Capacities for Living and Learning in Childhood, and Struggle and Success: Inspiring stories for transforming assessment across Europe.

TRADEMARK

IASWECE continues to collaborate with our partners in the **Pedagogical Section, Freunde der Erziehungskunst** and the **Hague Circle: International Council for Steiner Waldorf Education** in processing applications from new Steiner/Waldorf initiatives and to protect the use of the name Steiner and Waldorf and the quality it stands for.

STEINER/WALDORF PARTNERS

ECSWE: European Council for Steiner Waldorf Education ecswe.net

ELIANT: European Alliance of Initiatives for Applied Anthroposophy eliant.eu

ENSWAP: European Network of Steiner/Waldorf Parents enswap.org

Freunde: Freunde der Erziehungskunst freunde-waldorf.de

Hague Circle: International Council for Steiner Waldorf Education waldorf-international.org

Pedagogical Section ps.goetheanum.org

Medical Section medsektion-goetheanum.org

OTHER PARTNERS

AFC- ENG: Alliance for Childhood European Network Group allianceforchildhood.eu

L4WB: Learning for Well-Being l4wb.org

WORKING TOGETHER

MEMBERS OF IASWECE COUNCIL 2021

Clara Aerts, Belgium
Thi Phuong Dung Cao, Vietnam
Louise DeForest, Susan Howard, North America
Sara De Los Santos, Sweden
Sarah Dickson, East Africa
Ursula Dotzler, Austria
Gitte Drewes, Denmark
Svetlana Efremova, Russia
Svetlana Eks, Ukraine
Ulrike Farnleitner, Ireland
Sucheta Garud, India
Anne-Kathrin Hantel, Sigrid Jackstadt, Birgit
Krohmer, Germany
Mary-G Häuptle, South Africa
Tina Iwersen, Finland
Silvia Jensen, Brazil
Ae-Young Jeong, Republic of Korea
Shy-Tyng Kai, Taiwan
Joli Kiss, Hungary
Janja Kokalj, Slovenia
Magdalena Kuczora, Poland
Oliver Langscheid, Germany
Kathy MacFarlane, New Zealand
Sono Matsuura, Japan
Heli Müristaja, Estonia
Janni Nicol, United Kingdom
Gabriela Popescu, Romania
Raga Ragauskaite-Driukiene, Lithuania
Michal Reshef, Israel
Cathy Seiwert, France
Silvia Rizzoli, Italy
Tánja Smolková, Czech Republic
Lourdes Tormes, Spain
Aurelia Udo de Haes, Norway
Heather Van Zyl, Australia
Jacqueline Walter-Baumgartner, Switzerland
Li Zhang, Zhang Hao, China

BOARD 2021



Tina Iwersen
Finland



Janni Nicol
United Kingdom



Mary-G Häuptle
South Africa
(from October 2021)



Oliver Langscheid
Germany

COORDINATING GROUP 2021



Clara Aerts
Belgium



Susan Howard
USA



Lourdes Tormes
Spain

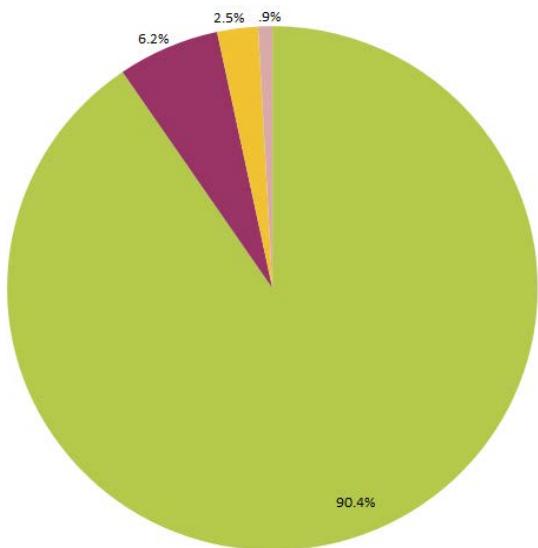
STAFF

Administrative Assistant: Lara Radysh, USA
Finance Office: Jennifer Langscheid, Germany



FINANCIAL YEAR RESULTS 2021

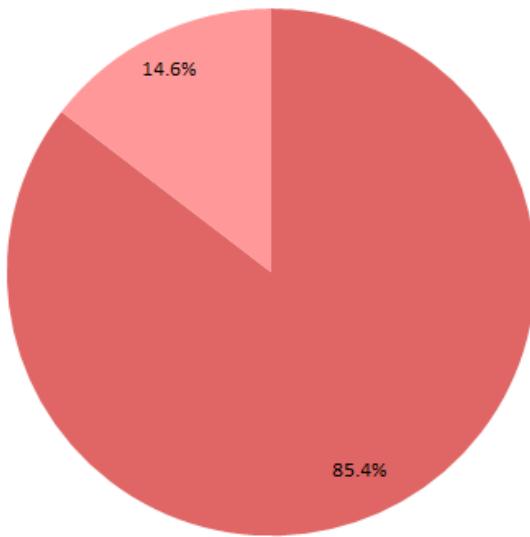
TOTAL INCOME 2021 (Amounts rounded to hundreds)



2021 2020

● Membership Contributions	272,400 €	265,000 €
● Donations	18,700 €	20,100 €
Friends Contributions	0 €	100 €
Unrestricted Donations	6,500 €	5,200 €
Restricted Donations	12,200 €	14,800 €
● Sponsoring	7,500 €	12,500 €
Annual Sponsorship	7,500 €	7,500 €
Corona Aid Fund	0 €	5,000 €
● Other income	2,600 €	27,100 €
Publications	2,200 €	4,400 €
Release from reserves	0 €	12,000 €
Other Proceeds	400 €	10,700 €
Total Income	301,200 €	324,700 €

TOTAL EXPENSES 2021



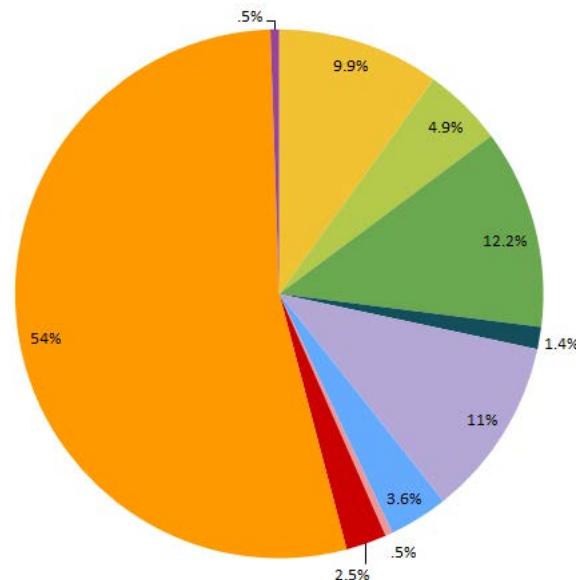
● Core Activities	221,400 €
● Salaries and administration	37,800 €
General Operating Costs Association	8,900 €
General Operating Costs Germany	13,300 €
General Operating Costs Spain	900 €
General Operating Costs USA	12,800 €
General Operating Costs Belgium	1,900 €
Total Expenses	259,200 €

CORE ACTIVITIES 2021

- Africa
- Asia
- Europe
- Latin America
- Pacific Region
- Extra Support Fund
- Working groups & thematic projects
- Collaboration with other organisations
- Donations/contributions to other organisations
- Coordination & Support international work (1 1/2 position)
- Implementation and Organisation

Total Expense for Core Activities

22,000 €
10,800 €
27,000 €
3,000 €
0 €
24,300 €
8,000 €
1,000 €
5,500 €
118,600 €
1,200 €
221,400 €



DONORS AND SPONSORS 2021

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

Clara Aerts
Erika Henning
Sigrid Jackstadt
Margaretha K.
Mildred K.
Eldbjørg Paulsen
Jill Taplin

Thank
You!

FOUNDATIONS & SPONSORS

Mercurius International, NL

DONATIONS FROM MEMBER COUNTRY ASSOCIATIONS

Australian Association for Rudolf Steiner Early Childhood Education Inc., AU
Fachtagung Elementarpädagogik Arbeitsgemeinschaft der RSS, CH
Fédération des Écoles Steiner-Waldorf, FR
Steinerbarnehageförbundet i Norge, NO
Vereinigung der Waldorfkindergärten e.V., DE
Waldorfbund Österreich, AT
Waldorf Early Childhood Association of North America, US, CA, MX

PARTNERSHIPS

Training NESWEC, UK - Training Ho Chi Minh & Hanoi, VT

DONATIONS FROM KINDERGARTENS AND OTHERS

Crannog Na Leanai Kindergarten, IE
Editorial Rudolf Steiner, ES
Eldbjørg Gjessing Paulsen and Stiftelsen Stjerneglimt Steinerbarnehage, NO
International Waldorf School The Hague, NL
Kindling, UK
L.,Thomas/Kindergarten Karlavagnen, SE
Sommerfuglen Steinerbarnehage, NO
Steinerschool Tervuren Kristoffel Parent Association, BE

MEMBER COUNTRY ASSOCIATIONS

There were 21 founding member associations in 2006. In 2021 membership has grown to 36 member associations.

Australia: Australian Association for Rudolf Steiner Early Childhood Education

Austria: Waldorfburg Österreich

Belgium: Federatie voor R. Steinerscholen in Vlaanderen

Brazil: Federation of Waldorf Schools in Brazil (FEWB)

China: China Early Childhood Education Forum (CECEF)

Czech Republic: Asociace waldorfských materských škol

Denmark: Sammenslutningen af Rudolf Steiner Dagtilbud i Danmark

East Africa: East Africa Association of Waldorf Schools

Estonia: Estonian Association of Waldorf Schools and Kindergartens

Finland: Steinerkasvatuksen liitto/varhaiskasvatusjaosto

France: Fédération des Écoles Steiner-Waldorf

Germany: Vereinigung der Waldorfkindergärten

Hungary: Magyar Waldorf Szövetség

India: Sadhana, Indian Waldorf Kindergarten Association (SIWKA)

Ireland: BLÁTHÚ Steiner Early Childhood Association

Israel: Israeli Kindergarten Teachers Circle

Italy: Sole Luna Stelle & Federation of Steiner-Waldorf Schools in Italy

Japan: Japanese Association for Steiner/Waldorf Early Childhood Education

Lithuania: Verein der Initiativen der Waldorf-Kinderpädagogik in Litauen

Korea, Republic of: Korea Association for Steiner/Waldorf Early Childhood Education (KASWECE)

Netherlands: Vereniging van vrijescholen

New Zealand: Steiner Education Aotearoa New Zealand

North America (Canada, USA and Mexico): Waldorf Early Childhood Association of North America (WECAN)

Norway: Steinerbarnehageförbundet i Norge

Poland: Związek Szkół i Przedszkoli Waldorfskich w Polsce

Romania: Asociația Educatoarelor Waldorf din Romania

Russia: „Zusammenschluss der Waldorfkindergarten Pädagogik“

Slovenia: Zavod za razvoj waldorfskih sol in vrtcev - zveza

South Africa: Federation of Waldorf Schools of Southern Africa

Spain: Asociación de Centros Educativos Waldorf en España

Sweden: Riksföreningen Waldorfförskolornas Samråd, RWS

Switzerland: Koordinationsstelle Elementarpädagogik Rudolf-Steiner-Schul-Bewegung, Schweiz und Liechtenstein

Taiwan: Taiwan Association of Steiner-Waldorf Kindergartens

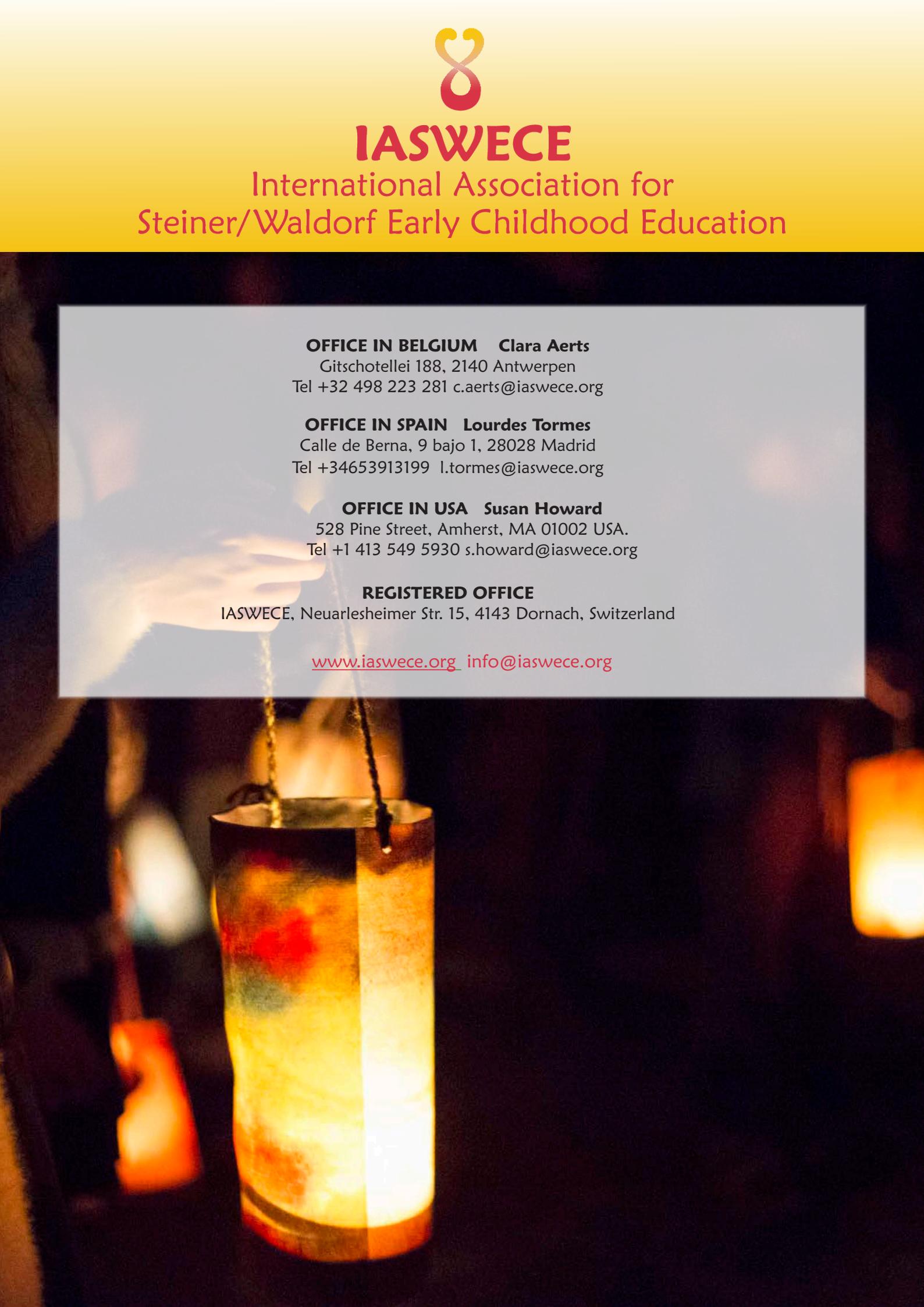
Ukraine: Association of Waldorf initiatives in Ukraine

United Kingdom: Steiner Waldorf Schools Fellowship

Vietnam: Steiner-Waldorf Association in Vietnam (SWAVN)







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International Association for
Steiner/Waldorf Early Childhood Education

OFFICE IN BELGIUM Clara Aerts

Gitschotellei 188, 2140 Antwerpen
Tel +32 498 223 281 c.aerts@iaswece.org

OFFICE IN SPAIN Lourdes Tormes

Calle de Berna, 9 bajo 1, 28028 Madrid
Tel +34653913199 l.tormes@iaswece.org

OFFICE IN USA Susan Howard

528 Pine Street, Amherst, MA 01002 USA.
Tel +1 413 549 5930 s.howard@iaswece.org

REGISTERED OFFICE

IASWECE, Neuarlesheimer Str. 15, 4143 Dornach, Switzerland

www.iaswece.org info@iaswece.org