

Good News from Turkey

Sinem Arslan, Tarhan Onur, Philipp Reubke

We might think twice these days about whether to travel to Istanbul - after all, something unpleasant might happen there. But where is the world is that not the case? What is there in Istanbul to experience however, was, for example, a conversation in March with Ineke van der Duyn Schouten and Jürgen Lohman about "Self-education and Biography Work". Or with Sabine Schygulla Holzky at the end of July on "Developing Relationships and Connections". These conversations took place in connection with the third year of Waldorf early childhood training among its 22 students. This one can also find in Istanbul.

And who is actually interested in those refugee children who now, because of recent agreements between Europe and Turkey, can no longer go to Europe but remain in Turkey? Two people who are interested are Birgül Taştan Meriç und Hande Başaran from the board of the Association „Waldorf Girişimi İstanbul – Eğitim Sanatı Dostları Derneği“ (ESDD). They have been working together with another organization, MAVI KALEM 8, to offer workshops for 4 -6-year-old children, based on activities one would find in a Waldorf kindergarten.



We can complain today about nationalistic tendencies that can be observed in many places. In Turkey, in the face of this retreat into the past, the following concrete initiative is taking place: On March 2nd, Beyza Korman Turgut, a mother who occasionally attends the deepening courses in Waldorf Education in Istanbul, sent an email to the ESDD, saying that she and her family had bought a house in Miskolc in Hungary and visited a Waldorf summer camp there. Her daughter then went to visit the Waldorf school there in Hamori, and she wanted to motivate other Turkish families to attend Waldorf summer camps in Hungary. The ESDD posted this on their Facebook page and, as an example, a mother in Sofia Bulgaria, İlkay Aydoğa, responded. A step on the way to more international encounters among Waldorf families....

Where does the tendency not exist, that the Waldorf movement finds itself somehow outside the public debate on educational questions, in a kind of “niche” existence? In Turkey a book was published on June 6, 2017 about early childhood education where, in Chapter 32, Waldorf Education was presented. All the Waldorf-inspired kindergartens in Turkey were mentioned - there are six of them and one or two new initiatives.

And aren't some people reluctant to explore the foundations of Waldorf education and Rudolf Steiner's anthropology in a new way? In Turkey the courses connected to the “Study of Man” - the “Practical Advice to Teachers” and “Discussions with Teachers” were translated into Turkish and sent to the seminar participants so that they could prepare for their summer course in July.

And what else? Three students in their third year of training chose for their final independent project the theme, “What Parents Need - and Why Waldorf”. Their papers would be interesting to read, if we could translate them from Turkish!

