



UNESCO welcomes Waldorf representatives in Paris

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On Friday 29 May 2026, our members spent a day at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris, meeting with UNESCO officials for an exchange on the future of education.

UNESCO works on the future of education and education for peace

UNESCO invited our members, national representatives of Steiner Waldorf education, to spend a day at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris, since we were visiting Paris as part of our council meeting between 28 and 31 May 2026. Among UNESCO's education priorities are digital learning and AI in education, sustainability education, teachers' training, and education for peace, topics that we can also recognise as pressing challenges for our schools and kindergartens. Recognising this alignment, UNESCO showed interest in a structured meeting and dialogue with Steiner Waldorf representatives.

Sharing inputs from Waldorf Education and UNESCO education policies

Disruptive realities of today, including economic, geopolitical, environmental, and health crises, make it hard for children and young people to feel excited about their own development or hopeful for their future. Education systems play an important role in addressing these issues and in empowering children and young people to live and learn, creating safe havens for them to develop. This was highlighted in keynote speeches by Margareta Van Raemdonck, President of ECSWE and Cecilia Barbieri, Chief of Section of Global Citizenship and Peace Education from UNESCO. After this introduction, we heard from Matthew Thomas, Senior Programme Specialist, Teacher Development from UNESCO on the importance of teachers and their crucial role in enabling children and young people to learn.



Fifty education experts from ECSWE and UNESCO gathered

The UNESCO's meeting room VI was packed with Steiner Waldorf national representatives from 19 countries, ECSWE's board and team members, the representatives of the International Association of Steiner Waldorf Early Childhood Education IASWECE, the International Council for Steiner Waldorf the Education (Hague Circle), the Pedagogical Section at Goetheanum, the European Network of Steiner Waldorf Parents, and five UNESCO representatives. This meeting served as a space to connect and build on our fruitful cooperation in the past and as a reminder of the open door for exchange and mutual support in the future.

Dora Simunovič is a member of the ECSWE Board, and in this capacity, she works with ECSWE partners and supports members' advocacy initiatives. She is part of the coordination team for the HERMMES project, which is co-funded by the Erasmus+ programme, and is responsible for the organisation's public relations.