

## IASWECE Council Meeting in Barcelona

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We experienced Barcelona as a city of wide and narrow streets with 25 degrees Celsius in the middle of October. What a treat for those who came from higher latitudes. When we arrived in Barcelona, we were amazed of the atmosphere of the city and the various architectural styles; we imagined how incredibly alive, vital and vivid life must be in this capital of Catalonia.

At the same time, we were warned to be careful, as there were tensions between various groups in relation to the question of independence for Catalonia. We were happy that we did not witness any riots, but instead heard people's considerations about building bridges and the wish to communicate between Catalans and Spanish.

As always, it was most amazing that the council members had managed to free themselves from their daily tasks in their countries for a moment and to have travelled from all over the world to meet in Barcelona for our IASWECE October meeting.

Right at the beginning we were introduced to the new member country, Taiwan, that has now joined our association. Thirty-four country associations form IASWECE, and meetings of all representatives take place twice a year.

One of the main themes of this meeting was to prepare ourselves and our countries for the festivities of the 100th anniversary of Waldorf Education that will take place around the world in 2019 ([see information on our home page](#)). For April 2019, we are planning a World Early Childhood Conference at the Goetheanum in Dornach/Switzerland, and we are all working together to create a rich moment for the renewal of our forces, trying our best to make it diverse and international. (See the article in this Newsletter).

This time we met in the "Hostel InOut" in Collserola Park, a nonprofit that works with support with special needs people. In each room is a photo and a small explanation of who the special needs person is who is responsible for caring for and cleaning that particular space. What a way to make people feel needed, valid and integrated. We were very grateful for all the help and smiles we could collect from these helpful staff members during our stay. Part of the group slept in dormitories, sometimes six women in one room. This close contact among colleagues enriched our relationships and brought them to a deeper level.



Besides our daily meetings, where we had a tight agenda, we had an opportunity one evening to visit the nearby El Til.ler Waldorf School. We were warmly welcomed to the school, visited the kindergarten rooms, and got to know some of the teachers and members of the Spanish Waldorf Association. After a welcome by Antonio Malagón Golderos, we danced to folk music with lots of laughter, followed by a lovely meal. We loved meeting our Spanish and Catalan colleagues and were really touched by their hospitality.



Council members and colleagues from Spain at the October council meeting in Barcelona

We are very grateful to our local Spanish colleague Lourdes Tormes, who made us feel safe and at home as much as possible. Thank you to Lourdes and to everyone who contributed their special qualities to creating an atmosphere of mutual development in the light of our common endeavor to serve the young child in this world.

The Council also approved financial support for a number of projects around the world:

In **Africa**, the following projects will be supported in 2018, with a total of 31 500 €:

*Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda*: Mentoring. - *Egypt*: training of the kindergarten teachers. - *Madagascar*: Introduction to Waldorf education for pre-school educators. - *In South Africa*: Mentoring and weekend courses for educators in the townships of Cape Town. Financial support for the Center for Creative Education in Cape Town. - *Zimbabwe*: Introductory course in Waldorf education and mentoring.

In **Asia**, the following projects will be supported in 2018, with a total of € 27 450:

*Armenia*: a special course and mentoring for the kindergarten teachers in Erevan. - *India*: training, mentoring, supporting the annual meeting of Waldorf kindergartens. - *Indonesia*: Mentoring for the educators of a Waldorf kindergarten. *Kyrgyzstan*: Support for a three-year training course. *Lebanon*: training for the kindergarten teachers in Beirut. *Mongolia*: One week introductory course for parents and educators in Ulan Bator. - *Myanmar*: training courses and mentoring. - *Nepal*: Introduction course. - *Pakistan*: Introductory course in a university. *Vietnam*: support for teacher education. -

In **Europe**, the following projects will be supported in 2018, with a total of € 36,800:

*Bulgaria*: Teacher education. *Czech Republic*: Teacher education. - *Estonia*: A training course. - *Hungary*: Education. Lithuania: Teacher education. - Poland: Teacher education. - Romania: support for the organization of the annual meeting of Waldorf kindergartens, mentoring and teacher education. - Russia: support for the organization of the annual meeting of Waldorf kindergartens and for training. - Turkey: support for the organization of the annual meeting of Waldorf kindergartens, mentoring and training. - Ukraine: support for the organization of the annual meeting of Waldorf kindergartens and for training.

In **Latin America**, the following projects will receive a total of 8200 € in support for 2018:

*Central America*: support for a Waldorf Kindergarten meeting. *Ecuador*: Training. Colombia: Training.

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