



'Unfolding Conference' October 23 – 26 in Brussels

By Clara Aerts

Imagine a culture where every child can unfold her or his unique potential...

Imagine a society where every young person has a voice that is listened to and taken into consideration...

Imagine a government that puts with every decision it makes the needs of the child/family as a central focus...

Imagine a world that gives every human being the possibility to reconnect to himself, his environment, nature, destiny and spirituality....

Imagine...

I'm sure many of you reading the above lines are hearing the song of John Lennon in the back of your minds and may be feeling a hint of nostalgia. However, when we look at today's reality we see that we have a long way to go before reaching these ideals. We realise that we need to work together with like-minded partners in order to be successful in building a new paradigm of education and care as a seed and a promise for the world of tomorrow.

Out of this spirit years ago, IASWECE joined the Alliance for Childhood that is co-hosting the upcoming 'Unfolding Conference' together with the Learning for Wellbeing Institute. All organising partner organisations share the conviction that supporting the unfolding of children's unique potential requires the commitment of all who have an impact in the quality of childhood. Through this shared striving we hope that a new culture can emerge that sees the child as a whole person and competent partner. The Unfolding Conference is an important milestone in our Alliance work and a follow-up on earlier conferences that took place in Brussels (2000), Salzburg (2005), and Budapest (2010), and an opportunity to take stock of approaches that can substantially improve the relationships of children among themselves, with others and with their surrounding environments.

I'm sure participants will engage in a collective experience that serves the children we work and live with, that serves each of us individually and – and that serves our communities and societies.

For further information, visit www.unfolding2013.org.

