

## IASWECE Council Meeting in Vienna October 8 - 12, 2014

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34 early childhood educators representing 30 member countries met for four days in Vienna in October.

We were pleased to welcome new council members Rasa Driukiene from Lithuania and Sucheta Garud from India. The Waldorf kindergarten associations in their countries have recently joined IASWECE. (You can find a list of [Member Countries](#) and a list of [Council members' names](#) on our website.)

In preparation for the "Transitions Conference" that will take place in Dornach in 2015, we worked with a lecture by Rudolf Steiner (GA 212, "The Human Heart") that describes the profound difference between the little child and the adult and the dramatic developmental transitions that take place in childhood. How easy it is for us to see and treat young children as a little personalities without grasping how completely different they are in body, soul and spirit from us adults. If we want to support the children in their development, we need to learn to perceive these differences and profound metamorphoses.

We also began to explore an issue that we plan to continue to work with and deepen in the coming year:

How can we support children who are growing up in a climate of fear? If we ourselves are fearful, we cannot help. We adults must try to strengthen our etheric forces through healthy habits and through the conscious activity of our own "I". The child learns to be a human being through other human beings. The child is a being that educates itself through imitation.

The Council also considered the financial, pedagogical and social situations of training and deepening courses that have applied for support in 2015. The Council decided to offer support for projects in **Europe** (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Russia, Turkey, and Ukraine), **Asia** (Armenia, India, Kirgistan, Myanmar, Nepal, Vietnam), the **Pacific Region** (Fiji), **Africa** (East Africa, Ethiopia, South Africa, Zimbabwe) and **South America** (Central America, Chile, Colombia, and Peru).

The Council also decided to support conferences, working groups and other projects in 2015. We look forward to our next meeting in March 2015, which will take place in Ruettihubelbad, Switzerland, where we will meet Swiss early childhood colleagues and continue to develop our work together.

