



2<sup>nd</sup> Edition July 2005

In May, there was the ACEPP general meeting with the childcarers and all the departmental associations. The subject was the involvement of parents, the diversity and the documentation of families, in relation with the issue of WP 1. 200 parents and professionals participate at this meeting. A lot of them could show the tools and the methods they created about documentation of families and diversity. For us, it was an opportunity to realize they were very deeply inspired by the exchanges that were in grundtvig project and by the goals of DECET...

The first parental universities started in Pau and in the north.. "Parentals Universities" are made of groups of parents working with academics on a specific issue related to "Being a parent". To ensure that all parents get the chance to express themselves, working methods within the groups will include different media like "Forum-theatre" and other artistic activities. Additionally, parents and academics will regularly get together with politicians and civil servants working in the field of early childhood services in order to discuss the progress of the work and intermediary results. Parents are very enthusiastic and involved. For example, in Pau, they themselves contacted the gipsies families because they wanted to find a group of people with real diversity. The first groups are really multi-social and intercultural. The institutional partners are also enthusiastic, and now we have to succeed in our challenge... A conference will be in Paris the December 9th to present the first parental universities. All DECET partners are invited.

The ACEPP network has decided to start considering in depth the issue of "Welcoming disabled children". We had a very interesting Partenarial Committee about this issue in January, and our political partners are very involved in this issue. A working group has been set up with the coordinators of the ACEPP departmental associations. The first goal of the working group will be to write a book of "good practices" to work with disabled children in respecting the diversity

We are starting to work about the pedagogy of diversity with children.

We organize a training of trainers and coordinators with Michel from VBJK and Wendy from Mutant. This training presents the theoretical aspects, the methods and tools (family walls, persona dolls..) to work diversity with children. In September, if we have the support of BVLF, a University do a research about the pedagogy in intercultural parental childcares.



Additionally, we continue the training of parents and professionals and the training of trainers and coordinators about diversity. ACEPP meets regularly Margalit Cohen Emerique to continue to build with her an approach to understand the diversity in the relations between parents and professionals in the childcare.

## ***THE CENTRE FOR RESEARCH IN EARLY CHILDHOOD (CREC)***

*THE CENTRE FOR RESEARCH IN EARLY CHILDHOOD (CREC) IS DEDICATED TO RAISING THE QUALITY OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE (ECEC) NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY. WE AIM TO WORK COLLABORATIVELY AND ETHICALLY TO PURSUE RESEARCH, SCHOLARSHIP, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH RELATED CONSULTANCY WITHIN THE FIELD OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION IN ORDER TO RAISE THE QUALITY, STATUS AND VISIBILITY OF THIS CRUCIAL AREA OF POLICY AND PRACTICE. WE ARE ALSO COMMITTED TO COMBATING INEQUALITY IN ALL ITS FORMS AND TO PROMOTING SOCIAL JUSTICE AND INCLUSION IN ALL ASPECTS OF OUR OPERATIONS AND WORK.*

1. Over the last year we have participated in Workpack 2 and Workpack 3 meetings. As a new partner at these first meetings we have spent time establishing relationships with other partners, learning about the theory and working practices of DECET and contributing to the work as far as possible.
2. We have been working together with a number of national and international organisations and groups who are developing our theoretical and professional understanding of anti-discriminatory and anti-racist practice.
3. We are currently the UK lead partner in an international project to develop understanding of staff and parent beliefs about how to support children of newly arrived immigrants in ECEC settings. This project will stimulate new professional development materials and information to inform policy and practice in England, France, Germany, Italy and the US.
4. We are involved in developing and running a number of pre and inservice training courses which promote anti-discriminatory and anti-racist practice and provision. In particular we are currently running a course for leaders and managers of integrated ECEC services in England (National Professional Qualification for Integrated Centre Leaders) which has a core module on equality in ECEC settings.
5. We run a UK Government endorsed quality assurance scheme which requires both training of staff and an assessment of anti-discriminatory and anti-racist practice.
6. We have also been involved in policy related work. Prof Bertram and Prof Pascal are members of a ministerially appointed Early Education Advisory Group (EEAG) which advises the government on the development of early childhood policy and practice on a range of issues, including diversity.



Prof Pascal is also Specialist adviser to the UK House of Commons Select Committee on Education which scrutinizes Government policy on a range of issues, including diversity. Prof Bertram is a member of the OECD international panel of assessors of country ECEC policy. Prof Bertram and Prof Pascal are Vice Chairs of Birmingham Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership which develops and implements early years policy for the city of Birmingham.



### News from ESSSE, by Myriam, Françoise and Dominique

#### **We organized 2 conferences**

On the 13<sup>th</sup> of January was the first conference, with the title “Respect for Diversity in the field of Childhood”. It was held in ESSSE and we received 200 people, including DECET Network members, BVL Foundation representatives, and trainers from French Training Centres of Early Childhood Educators.

We would like to thank the BVL participants and the DECET members for their contribution to the success of this event. Our local partners, professionals of day care centres appreciated to discover the DECET activities. You will soon receive the file of the meeting, including the minutes lectures in documents.

The second conference which also took place in our site in Lyon had the same title. The goal of this conference however was to share field experiences of professionals who followed the training about “Respect for Diversity” for 2 years. It was also an opportunity to present to the group of professionals the thesis of Michel Vandembroeck, as well as DECET aims and work. At this conference, we had the honour to welcome 250 people from Lyon, Grenoble and Vaulx en Velin.

#### **WP2**

In the WP2, we had 3 meetings:

In Lyon, half day in January

In Gand, 2 days in February

In Barcelona, 2 days in June

We continue to prepare the seminar in Barcelona for the following year. You are going to receive news about this.

And, we were able to finish the pedagogic manual to support the film of our students about Diversity in day care centres where they are employed. “Ten views “ is the title and it is in a bilingual form.



## **2 conférences ont été organisées**

La 1<sup>ère</sup>, le 13- 01 -2005, intitulée Respect pour la Diversité dans le champ de la petite enfance; elle s'est déroulée à Lyon, dans les locaux de l'ESSSE et a rassemblé 200 personnes, notamment des membres du réseau DECET, des représentants de la Fondation BVL, et des formateurs de Centres de Formation français d'Éducateurs de Jeunes Enfants.

Nous remercions tous les participants de BVL et du réseau DECET pour leur contribution au succès de cet conférence. Nos partenaires locaux les professionnels des établissements Petite Enfance ont apprécié de découvrir les activités du réseau. Et vous recevrez bientôt les actes de la conférence.

Une 2<sup>ème</sup> conférence s'est également déroulée à Lyon avec la même thématique. Le but de cet événement était de permettre à des professionnels, ayant suivi une formation « Respect pour la Diversité » sur 2 années, de partager leurs expériences. Ce fut aussi l'occasion pour Michel Vandebroek de présenter sa thèse, les buts et le travail de DECET.

Nous avons accueilli 250 personnes de Lyon, Grenoble et Vaulx en Velin.

### **WP2**

Nous avons eu 3 rencontres :

- A Lyon, ½ journée en janvier
- A Gand, 2 jours en Février
- A Barcelone, 2 jours en Juin

Nous préparons le séminaire de barcelone de l'an prochain ;vous recevrez des informations sur ce séminaire ultérieurement.

Nous avons terminé le manuel d'accompagnement du film « Dix regards », réalisé par nos étudiants en cours d'emploi, sur le thème de la diversité dans les structures petite enfance, dans lesquelles ils sont employés. Ce film est réalisé en français sous titré en Anglais.

## **2 conferencias**

La primera el 13 de Javier, que se llama « Respeto por la diversidad ». Se desarrolla en Lyon, y acoga 200 personas, de la Red DECET, de BVL, y formadores de centros de formacion de Educadores de la primera infancia de Francia.

Queremos agradecer a todos por su participacion y contribucion. Nuestros miembros en Francia y los profesionales de centros de primera infancia apreciban de descubrir las actividades de cada uno de DECET. Recibi reis pronto las minutas de la conferencia.

La segunda conferencia se desarrolla tambien en Lyon con el mismo titulo. El objetivo de esta conferencia es de compartir la experiencia de la formacion « respeto por la Diversidad », entre profesionales de centros de primera infancia.

En este conferencia, Michel Vandebroek presenta su tesis, y los objetivos y el trabajo de DECET. Acogiamos 250 personas, de Lyon, Grenoble o Vaux en Velin.

### **WP2**

Habemos realizado 3 encuentros :

- una en Lyon en javier



una en Gand en febrero

una en Barcelona en julio

preparamos un seminario en Barcelona para el año próximo. Recibireis informaciones sobre este seminario pronto.

Habemos terminado un manual pedagógico para acompañar la película que nuestros estudiantes han realizado, y que se llama « diez miradas ». Esta película es en 2 lenguas, en francés y inglés.



## News from MUTANT.....

### **Project Parents and diversity**

The three year running project is in its last phase focussing on the implementation of the results in child care providers and focussing on the dissemination of the results. On our invitational conference in January 2005 Myriam Mony presented the diversity work of ESSSE Ecole for an audience of Dutch colleagues in initial training colleges.

In 2006 we expect to realise the following products: a manual on 'Parents and Diversity', a method titled 'Van botsingen kun je leren' (you can learn from confrontations, concerning cultureshocks) and a closing conference.

The accompanying action evaluation research shows its first results: what works for the educators to improve their communication with parents, and what do parents consider as good daily contact with the child care centre.

Coordination: Anke van Keulen, Wendy Doeleman. Research: Fuusje de Graaff

### **Exchange workshop 'Artistic activities'**

At June 1st Helene Karagiorgis from Schedia provided a workshop as one of the exchange activities of workpack 1. The workshop was part of the MUTANT project 'Parents and Diversity' and was joined by 35 educators. Half of the participants followed a workshop on Drama and music, half of them on painting and poetry. At the end of the day both groups presented their results with great enthusiasm. The positive evaluation of the participants shows the inspiring and motivating impact of an European exchange.

Coordination: Christel van Woudenberg, Anke van Keulen



### **Documentation of families**

RELATED TO THE WORKPACK 1 GROUP 'DOCUMENTATION OF FAMILIES', MUTANT INITIATED A NATIONAL PROJECT 'FAMILIES VISIBLE'. FIVE PILOT ORGANISATIONS (CHILD CARE CENTRES AND SCHOOLS) PARTICIPATE IN THE WORKING GROUP, WHICH MEETS EVERY FEW MONTHS BETWEEN JANUARY 2005 AND APRIL 2006. MUTANT RECEIVED A GRANT FOR THIS NATIONAL PROJECT, WHICH ENABLES US TO WRITE A BOOK, MAKE A DVD AND ORGANISE A NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN 2006 TO PRESENT OUR EXPERIENCES ON A NATIONAL LEVEL. COORDINATION: WENDY DOELEMAN & MONIQUE VAN DER KAA

### **Persona Dolls in France**

Due to the exchange visits of workpack 1, Bureau MUTANT provided a workshop on Persona Dolls in Lille, last June. A group of 12 professionals joined the workshop and were very enthusiastic at the end of the day. Persona Dolls is a pedagogical method that can be used to introduce and to discuss 'diversity-issues' with young children. A special doll visits the children now and then, telling a short story about a daily experience. The educator uses the story to interact with the children stimulating social, emotional and problem solving skills.

After the training, several French professionals were willing to start with the Persona Dolls ('Les Poupees comme nous') this autumn.

Coordination: Christel van Woudenberg, Wendy Doeleman



Inspiratiebronnen  
voor opvoeding & kinderopvang

## NEWS FROM VBJK

1. **ecce ama! Childcare in Learning networks**, an Equal project in the frame of the European Social Fund.



In this project we want to develop innovative training instruments that prepare low skilled men and women, and men and women of ethnic minorities for a job in the childcare sector, more specific for a job as a family day care provider-childminder, or an employment in local childcare initiatives in disadvantaged neighbourhoods.

We created a Development Partnership with 9 Flemish organisations: Kind en Gezin, Landelijke Kinderopvang, VCOK – Vormingscentrum voor opvoeding en kinderopvang, Pedagogische begeleidingsdienst stad Gent, Koepel van Buurt- en Nabijheidsdiensten, Stad Antwerpen, Werkgelegenheid en arbeidsmarkt Stad/OCMW Brugge - diensteneconomie, De Blauwe Lelie - Dienst voor opvanggezinnen. VBJK is the promotor and co-ordinator of this partnership.

### THOSE 9 PARTNERS ORGANISE WORKING GROUPS AROUND 4 OBJECTIVES:

1. Development of an innovative training instrument and guidance programme for family day care providers, by using a combination of class training sessions and an e-learning environment ("Blended learning"). We want to develop educational tools and a learning management system.
2. In cooperation with the schools for adult education we want to work out and integrate topics as working with specific, disadvantaged target groups in a participative way; empowerment of parents; respect for diversity, optimising interaction and networking in function of an integral approach
3. Further developing of a quality framework for the local childcare initiatives and integrated services in disadvantaged neighbourhoods. We want to clear quality standards and develop an inspiring quality model, based on the expertise of the existing services. This quality model



should result in a self-evaluation instrument that dovetails the quality-criteria of nursery, training and employment.

4. Production of a video film to support sensitisation activities about the importance of the accessibility of the nursery to socially vulnerable parents (in order to allow them to find a job, to follow training, to find support in the education process of their child). We will cooperate with local actors, organisations, policy-makers.

Every working group can count on the support of an advisory team, which consists of experts from the working field as well as policy makers.

We started up a Transnational Cooperation with the Development Partnership in Luxembourg “Qualiflex – Qualität und Flexibilität in der Kinderbetreuung (promotor: Confédération Carita Luxembourg asbl)

After the approval of the project proposal in November 2004, we started the preparation action until June 2005. The implementation action and the dissemination will take place from June 2005 until April 2008.

More information on: <http://www.vbjk.be/eequal.htm>



## 2. Childcare for newcomers

In this project in Brussels, 3 pilot day care centres participate to enhance accessibility for newcomers. They also build networks with the services responsible for newcomers (called BON in Brussels). Additionally, 4 ex-newcomers are trained as qualified staff to enhance the diversity of the teams of the day care centres.

So far the networking between child care centres and BON has resulted in a better understanding of each others rationales and contexts, in order to better serve the needs of newcomers with young children. The consult more regularly in case of problems and support each other.

The 3 pilot centres have worked on issues of diversity and equity, including reorganising the subscription and welcoming of new parents and children, the installation of regular evaluative discussions with parents, and more symbolic and real place for parents and family cultures in the centre. It is striking to see that changes that are introduced for the newcomers' children now benefit all children. One example is that the team does not consider parents as clients who need to be satisfied anymore, but rather see them as partners that have a crucial role to play and consequently invite them to participate.

We subscribed to a federal fund to enlarge the project to 3 more pilot centres in Brussels and will soon be notified of the result of this.



### **3. Inclusion of children with special needs**

In collaboration with the city of Antwerp, the project on including children with special needs is continued. During summer some strategical discussions will take place to negotiate the mainstreaming of the project. By the end of 2005 a brochure with concrete experiences will be published.

### **4. Child care and master social work**

For the first time child care was taught as a subject in the university. The subject was introduced in the new master in Social Work at the Ghent University. One concrete result is that next year (2005-2006) 10 to 15 students will do research on child care, including aspects of diversity and equity such as gender, inclusion of children with special needs, giving voices to ethnic minority parents and quality standards for diversity.