

Thank you to the European Alliance for Childhood and the Haukkala Foundation, for enabling me to attend, and to Lea Pulkkinen, for her extraordinary life's research and the launch of her book, which was the heart and soul of this valuable experience.

Summary of Speakers and Topics: June 16th, 2017- Helsinki, Finland.

<p>Anita Lehtikainen: <i>Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education and Culture</i></p>	<p>A talk describing the holistic reform of Finland's education system with more emphasis placed on the human element of learning than ICT and digital technologies as central, describing the key aspect of developing willing, curious lifelong learners, who have a desire and capacity to develop as a human being and citizen of the world.</p>
<p>Olli-Pekka Heinonen: <i>Director General of Finnish Agency for Education</i></p>	<p>An overview of how the whole of the Government must coordinate for the best of a child, and how everything is connected in regard to achieving this. He also went into how our current society has a vertical structure, but how our global problems are of a horizontal nature- interwoven and interconnected. He also spoke of how complex it is to raise a child, far more complicated than creating a simple recipe, and even more so than building the technological know-how to get a rocket to the moon.</p>
<p>Lea Pulkkinen: <i>Professor & Chair of Haukkala Foundation.</i></p> <p>*Routledge, June 2017- now available to purchase through book suppliers.</p>	<p>The entire conference was based around the launch of Lea's seminal publication 'Human Development from middle childhood to middle adulthood: Growing up to be middle-aged'*, a synthesis of her 50 years of research and the renowned longitudinal JYLS project. One of the key findings she espouses is that life paths are not predestined, and that positive developments are possible at a later age. Of the many rewarding discoveries also, the concept that emotional regulation was one of the most crucial aspects for future all round success, enabled by child-centred parenting.</p>
<p>Michiel Matthes: <i>Co-Founder & Chair for Alliance for Childhood European Network Group</i></p>	<p>In highlighting to us the immense and tangible threats humanity faces in the form of climate change, digitalization, biotechnology, war and corporate interests, Michiel provided us with the necessary context for the importance of the Alliances work safeguarding children for not only this generation, but all the following ones.</p>
<p>Helma Brouwers: <i>Professor and member of Janusz Korczak Foundation</i></p>	<p>A fascinating insight into alternative modes of viewing children and childhood, through the lens of Janusz Korczak, who argued and fought for a republic of childhood, and made the case that we need to go with children rather than against them, and that children are above all- subjects, not objects.</p>
<p>Clara Aerts: <i>Chair of International Association for Steiner/Waldorf Early Education (IASWECE)</i></p>	<p>In a passionate and inspiring talk, Clara encouraged us all to ask the question of 'what does it mean to be human?', and spoke of the ideas of Rudolf Steiner, in his promise of a new worldview and cultural impulse through Anthroposophy. As change comes through the children, it is essential we get children's education right- and the links between health.</p>
<p>Nickel van der Vorm: <i>Co-Founder of Netherland's Institute for Educational Matters</i></p>	<p>Nickel brought about the vital question- what is the purpose of education? His arguments to resist the standardization of children, and averages, spoke of his deep passion for Pedagogical Tact, and bringing out what is already in the child, rather than trying to force things upon them.</p>
<p>Maria Kaisa Aula: <i>Chair of Governmental Program, Ministry of Social Welfare and Health</i></p>	<p>Maria gave an in-depth look into the Finnish governmental reform- 'LAPE', whereby we were able to see the 'why' necessitating a reform, and also the method and approach being used to best carry out work for the best of a child in Finland. Building bridges between organizations and departments was a key theme, and also providing extensive support for parenting in the early years- a true foundation for a healthy society.</p>
<p>Thomas Kurttila: <i>Ombudsman for Children in Finland, chair person elect for European</i></p>	<p>Thomas Kurttila chaired the second session of the conference, using his vast knowledge in his role as Ombudsman for children in Finland and Europe- spearheading attention to childhood, and ensuring the UN Convention Rights for the Child are upheld and communicated within the networks of</p>

<p><i>Network of Ombudspersons for Children (ENOC)</i></p>	<p>government, professionals, child carers and the wider public. His arguments of needing care for children as the cornerstone for a sustainable society was a heartfelt, and vital message.</p>
<p>Daniel Kropf (via video): <i>Founder & Chair of Learning for Well-Being Foundation</i></p>	<p>Delivered to us as a video recording, Daniel spoke of the urgent need to develop more of a thinking, feeling, doing, and being aspect to educating children. He spoke of the need to weave together eastern, western and Indigenous approaches, and spoke of how our goal should be to “unleash the power of young people who create the future for everyone”.</p>
<p>Päivi Fadjukoff: <i>Professor and Project Manager of Haukkala Foundation</i></p>	<p>As both the first speaker, and the last, Päivi’s eloquent and passion talk wove all the threads together of the previous talks, and gave us a solid reasoning for investing in children- children as the future, born now into a complex and ever-changing world, rampant with globalization and digitalization. She highlighted to all of us that taking care of the children results in a sustainable planet- with vitality and safety for all the world’s children.</p>