



# Learning for Well-being Consortium

**How European foundations contribute to  
the 'Learning for Well-being' of children  
& youth in their diverse environments**

EFC Foundation Week  
Focus on Children and Youth – 1st June



# Aim of this session

- Tell you about our vision
- Introduce you to the 'Learning for Well-being' Consortium of foundations in Europe
- Tell you about our plans:
  - Policy Glossary
  - Conference 2011
- Showcase work of the foundations
- Discuss with you how we can take forward this vision together



**Whole people. Whole planet.  
Well-being for All**

**Our vision:  
Learning for Well-being**



# Learning for Well-being movement

## Paradigm change

Standard ==> **Child centered**

Disease ==> **Well-being**

Mind ==> **Wholeness**

Critical mass of partners + children and youth

## Tipping point...

Purpose education and health is the creation of well-being

With the support of media, ICT, communities and families



# Learning for Well-being

**Learning to know**

**Learning to do**

**Learning to be**

**Learning to live together**

From: UNESCO, *Learning: The Treasure Within*



# Learning implies...

- Full body experience
- Based on individual processes and needs
- Takes place everywhere
- Occurs through relationships
- Occurs through listening with curiosity and respect



# Well-being implies...

**Our working definition:**

***Well-being is realizing one's unique potential through physical, emotional, mental and spiritual development in relation to self, others and environment.***



# Learning for Well-being - sources

- **The United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child**

Art 28 Parties agree that the education of the child shall be directed to: (a) The development of the child's personality, talents and mental and physical abilities to their fullest potential;

Art 12: Parties shall assure to the child who is capable of forming his or her own views the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child.

- **World Health Organisation**

Definition of health: ***Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.***



# Anchoring the Learning for Well-being Movement

- Critical mass
- Transdisciplinary
- Enabling participation – at all levels
- Learning for well-being curriculum
  - Improving relationships & communication
  - Knowing yourself



# Learning for Well-being Consortium

Consortium established - 2009

Founding group:

- Bertelsmann Stiftung
- Evens Foundation
- Freudenberg Stiftung
- Guerrand-Hermès Foundation for Peace
- Robert Bosch Stiftung
- Universal Education Foundation



# Our journey so far ...

- EFC AGA, Madrid 2007
- Paris Workshop, March 2008
- EFC AGA, Istanbul 2008
- Survey of 12 foundations, Summer/Autumn 2008
- Berlin Workshop, November 2008
- Consortium established in 2009
- Indicators workshop, Brighton, July 2009
- Commissioned author for Policy Glossary, February 2010



# Statement of Purpose:

We, members of the Consortium, will inspire and engage policy makers, foundations and other stakeholders in Europe to listen more to children and young people, and to take more initiatives with them for their well-being in their learning environments (as underlined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child).



# Goals

- Policy-makers, NGOs, businesses and foundations are increasingly aware & support 'learning for well-being' of children & young people
- Girls and boys are actively involved
- More and more foundations, European institutions and stakeholders are engaged in supporting the vision of 'Learning for Well-being'.



# Success Factors

- Encourage conscious nurturing of children's & young people's well-being by providing expertise & input to policy-making in Europe.
- Share knowledge & skills among foundations & decision-makers at all levels.
- Transdisciplinary and cross-sector approaches.
- Create a culture of engaging children as change agents in the transformation of their learning environments.
- Engage with partners from multiple sectors of society.



# Activities

- Policy Glossary
- Conference: Learning for Well-being Forum
- Indicators for measuring the personal perception of well-being by children & young people in their diverse environments
- ‘Learning for Well-being’ Charter



# Learning for Well-being Policy Glossary

- Conceptual & strategic framework.
- Shift in mindsets & practices ==> responds to the diversity of individuals and their learning processes.
- State-of-the-art knowledge & interdisciplinary research on 'learning for well-being'.
- Principles for policies ==> how to make them happen.
- Delivery date: Spring 2011.

***The Policy Glossary is supported by a grant from the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation.***



# Learning for Well-being Forum

- Agenda-setting conference to support the agenda towards well-being of children for:
  - European & international institutions,
  - national governments,
  - foundations,
  - business,
  - research
  - NGOs.
- Brussels early in 2011
- Present and discuss near final draft Policy Glossary
- Seeking partners from all sectors of society: young people and adults



# Learning for Well-being Indicators

- Goal: develop indicators for measuring what enables children/young people to flourish & realise their unique potential.
- Stocktaking report on existing data sets/indicators - available on webpage late June 2010.



# Learning for Well-being Charter

- Declaration of common understanding of what is required for the diverse learning environments of children and young people to be more conducive to their well-being.
- For adoption by the conference in 2011.