



DANIEL KROPF
Learning for Well-being Consortium of Foundations in Europe

Opening Remarks

Dear friends,

I am privileged and honoured to welcome you all here today.

Dear Isabelle, dear Gordon, dear John,
I would like to express my joy for the fact that we are gathered here for the well-being of children.

Thank you to Dominic Richardson for making all of this possible.

Thank you also to the members of the Learning for Well-being Consortium of European Foundations **(slide)** that have contributed to our Journey.

To the Evens, the Freudenberg and the Bertelsmann Foundations with whom we began the Consortium. To the Gulbenkian Foundation that has supported the development of the Policy Glossary. To the Bosh Foundation that is supporting the launch of the Policy Glossary and last but not least, to the Guerrand-Hermes Foundation for Peace that has hosted us at a critical juncture and helped us develop a sense of “we” and joining the Universal Education Foundation in sponsoring this event.

All the foundations in their different ways have been supporting the LEARNING for WELL-BEING vision with their work overcoming the difficulties of the existing paradigms.

Thank you also to our secretariat managed by Jean Gordon, the Director of the European Institute for Education and Social policy

Learning for well-being is a way to focus on what matters. It is connecting Learning (life-long Learning) to Well-being. If we look at Health data on Non Communicable Disease that was published in September this year by the Harvard school of Public health together with the World Economic Forum , a cost of 47 trillion US dollars is anticipated in the next 20 years. Most of these diseases are due to the way we think and behave. 70% of the loss of output is from cardiovascular and mental diseases. This study shows that families, countries and economies are losing people in their most productive years.

Those are staggering numbers and education could be the best health care delivery system if it was more relevant to each student in their way of learning, communicating and growing up.

The present situation is that the education systems world wide are failing at a rate that no other system could afford if you were to count repeats, illiteracy and drop out without thinking about youth that having completed their studies do not find employment .We are in the middle of a structural and financial crisis and at the same time the concept of Well-being is getting traction as an alternative way to look at successful societies.

So focusing on what matters may be to increase the efficiency of the system by getting people to help themselves. Learning for Well-being focuses on helping people discover how to fulfill their potential no matter what the outside circumstances are by understanding who they are, how to connect to others and the environment with a sense of love and responsibility.

(Slide) The secretary general of Universal Education Foundation Prof. Marwan Awartani, the chairman of the Arab Foundation Forum has been implementing these concepts in a cross-sectoral way via the Learning for Well-being Elham initiative in the Palestinian Territories. He will in fact be addressing tomorrow in a plenary session in Qatar at WISE, the Future of education

Elham stands for “Inspiration“ and is represented by the heart in the middle of the circle made in stylized Arabic letters, which we have decided to adopt as the logo of our movement. The partners are the Ministry of Education, Health Youth and Sport, UNRWA - both Health and education department - the ICT community, Foundations, Media, NGO and Business.

We would like to rally around Learning for Well-being a critical mass of transformational leaders that understand the importance of “we” and create a common purpose to operationalize it across sectors in an integrative way.

We need transformational leaders that can make good use of this window of opportunity and build strategies that can achieve change.

I believe there are many of such leaders in this room today.

Thank you for listening.