

## *Position Paper*

European Masters Programme in Steiner Waldorf Education: a school- and research-based programme of *continuing professional development* (CPD) at Masters level within the European context.

The purpose of the project is to design a Masters programme offering continuing professional development for those involved in Steiner Waldorf Education. Participation will be open to graduate students and teachers, governors and parents, as well as to groups of colleagues within one school or from different schools.

The aim of this programme is to foster a culture of enquiry and self-development in learning communities, incorporating practice-based reflection and research. By doing this in a wider European context processes of school enhancement and innovation within Steiner Waldorf education will be supported.

At the inception of the Steiner Waldorf school movement Rudolf Steiner stressed the central importance of a reflective and researching attitude in teachers. He made concrete suggestions on collaborative forms to achieve this, which call for continuous reaffirmation and renewal.

This programme will be school- and research-based, with the focus on process and outcome rather than on pre-arranged content. It envisages taught elements as well as tutored independent study offered in response to the needs for reflection and research expressed by those colleagues that enrol. It will provide a supportive academic framework at postgraduate level, with access to libraries, on-line assistance, and an international (multi-lingual) pool of university-approved tutors to advise students in exploring their own questions.

The convergence of higher education policies in European states envisaged by the *Bologna Declaration* (June 1999) will bring about the adoption of commonly accepted frameworks and benchmarks for Masters provision. This programme will offer credits over 3 consecutive levels of study, currently termed: Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma, and Master of Arts. On completion of each level a self-standing award will be conferred. Assessment will be outcome-based using a broad spectrum of assignments. Though the normal completion time for the whole Masters programme will be 3-5 years of part-time study, individual needs and timescales will also be considered. The venues will be mainly student-focussed with enrolment possible at different times of the year.

Project Steering Group (7<sup>th</sup> March 2003)

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