

School autonomy:

The perspective of Steiner Waldorf Education

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European Council for Steiner Waldorf Education

- Network of 26 national Steiner and Waldorf School Associations in Europe;
- Approx. 700 schools in European 28 countries;
- 160.000 pupils are enrolled in our schools Europe-wide
- Our schools are mostly independent non-profit schools and receive varying degrees of public funding (0-100 %);
- Holistic educational approach.

School Autonomy

- Schools should be run by those who understand education best.
- Empower the professionals: teachers!
- Work closely with parents.
- Stronger independence of the educational sector from both politics and business.
- Put civil society in charge of education!

Empowering through Education

- Educate people to participate in a changing society or:
Educate people to participate in changing society?
- Education to serve the labour market or:
Education towards freedom?
- Is learning mostly defensive or
can expansive learning blossom in schools?
- Do students develop their own values,
form their own identity?
- Does school transfer knowledge from textbooks or
bond people in a joint exploration of the world?

Standardisation or Diversity?

Does

- standardised education,
- standardised assessment,
- standardised accountability

improve educational quality or turn schools into rote learning factories?

We propose

- diversity in education,
- pluralistic assessment for learning,
- peer accountability.



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