

Impression of the *Dabrowski Europe Meeting* on April 11th, 2011 in Salzburg.

Present

Prof. Dr. G. Betts, Prof. Dr. Trevor Tebbs, Mag. Ulrike Kempter, Drs. Marion Rogalla, Mag. Dr. Sieglinde Weyringer, Drs. Clara Teurl-Weiler, Mag. Verena Chlumetzky-Schmid, Drs. Frank de Mink Truus van der Kaaij, ECHA. (Wieslawa Limont is said to be interested to join the workgroup)

Absent with notice: Prof. Dr. Christian Fischer, Dr. Lianne Hoogeveen, Elisabeth Hotze

Introduction

At the preceding EU conference *Talent Support* in Budapest on 7-9 April 2011 (about 350 persons), we heard our mission in Mrs. Hoffmann's speech. We have a mission, not only for the latent talents, but also for the hidden talents, which we do not recognize due to our concept of giftedness/talent. We think of the introverts, the underachievers, the maladjusted, the mislabeled.

We think we would understand giftedness better if we acknowledge Kazimierz Dabrowski's work. He explains being talented in a broader way than only by high IQ. (Erica Landau: "it is not intelligence that makes them gifted".) Dabrowski emphasizes *living intensely* by his *general* theory of personality development (TPD). In this theory he mentions Developmental Potential; OE is part of this potential, present in gifted.

How can we give Dabrowski's view an appropriate place in talent support?

This is not a national issue, but a European and worldwide one. We need shared effort to:

- **Inform teachers;** talent is individual, therefore education can only be individual, which is a challenge for all teachers; most of the gifted are identified by teacher judgment : 80% (Joan Freeman), only 54% by IQ test. Because most of the gifted stay in ordinary main stream classrooms (42%), teachers have to be trained in differentiation for the gifted
- **Inform Professionals** in health care to prevent mislabeling and
- **Promote Research** on Dabrowski's theory

Aims of Dabrowski Europe

1. To validate Dabrowski's theory
2. To apply the theory
3. To develop the theory
4. To be inspired by the theory

All participants introduce themselves.

Themes of our conversation:

- Goals of Salzburg meeting: How do we lay the basics for later Dabrowski conferences in Europe?
In different areas:
 1. psychology/psychiatry/health care
 2. education
 3. gifted
 4. philosophy of life
- Targets for this meeting:
 1. Network -> participants promise to invite others
 2. Research -> participants will stimulate students
 3. **First symposium in Munster added to ECHA conference in 2012.**

- Other possibilities to mention Dabrowski at conferences: World Conference Prague 2011 (presentation by Frank and Truus), ICIE Istanbul July 2011, Gifted Salzburg: 2013, Luzern 2014.
- Trevor: explains his 3rd *factor mentoring* by anecdotes from his clinic. Emotion is filter for all life experience. TPD and OE belong together. Motivation is: how we think and feel. If feeling is negative, there is no motivation. Emotions are the basics for intelligence, learning and study. Gifted tend to establish their values early. Start with hierarchization of values. Trevor shared with us his checklist with dynamisms.
- George: Belonging is most important. 3rd factor is the meeting point between: the *Autonomous Learner Model* & *Dabrowski's Theory*. Dabrowski is to be found in the ALM in the *Orientation* stage. The inner drive does it.
- Multilevelness: changes each of the OEs. There is more co-ordination between the OEs in the higher levels.
- Disintegration: crisis leads to tragic and works preventive/is necessary for the next developmental level.
- Misdiagnoses: James Webb's book is "the bible" for counselors of the gifted.
- We talked about the differences between Dabrowski and Piechowski.

What to do and how?

- Looking for Funds for translations from Polish to English
- Research/conferences:
 - o Marion: social and personal development, qualitative case studies
 - o Clara Teusler: presentation Pedagogische Hochschule
 - o Verona: Professionals have to be informed: Dabrowski to be mentioned in network
 - o Sieglinde: 15-20% students integrate Dabr. into studies G&T . Sieglinde can inform the psychologists
 - o Ulrike will take our points into the preparation meeting for ECHA-conference in **Munster** early in May:
 - Apart from the Pre-conference Dabrowski Day, there should **also** be a symposium on Dabrowski **during/in** the ECHA conference.
 - The preconference day is **not only for gifted education but also for other disciplines.**
 - Keynote speaker on the Dabrowski day/symposium
 - Dabrowski introduction(s) for beginners and advanced (Frank and Truus)
 - Trevor's workshop for practitioners and scientists
 - Ulrike: Logotherapy and Dabrowski

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- Frank and Truus will be the centre/organisation of *Dabrowski Europe*
 - There will **not** be another meeting. Further communication and mutual support will be digital.