

Austria

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2006

1 The Foundation of the National Section

I do not have any information about the early times of FICE Austria. I have one date: June 1st, 1968 foundation of FICE Austria in the present form. There might have been a similar organisation before, as June 1st is obviously the date of acceptance of the new statutes. Prof. Roden, who has been President for a long period, is no longer alive (like most of his colleagues of that time) and nobody knows where all the old letters and minutes are. There is also no list of all the Presidents.

FICE Austria was very active until the end of the 90s. Then it went to sleep like Sleeping Beauty and nearly all the members disappeared. Nothing happened from the end of the 90s to 2003.

In 2003 we started with a new President (Monika Niederle), a new Vice President (Karin Lauermann) and a new General Secretary (Otmar Mittermayr), creating new ideas and struggling for getting back our members.

2 Organisation and finance

FICE Austria does not have an office and no paid staff; all work is done by volunteers. We do not have a regional, but a central system. At present we are financed by membership fees. But we also were given 20 paintings (worth about 5,000 euros each) by a Viennese painter, Rudi Holdhaus, and our FICE Ambassador, Erwin Steinhauer, a very well known Austrian actor, and we hope to do an auction this autumn and to get as much money for those paintings as possible.

3 Membership

In 2003 the size of membership was nearly zero and since then we have been struggling to get back the old members, which is very hard work once you have lost them. Our members are organisations, schools for social pedagogues and similar professions and individuals from several fields.

4 Activities

- FICE Austria is member of the National Coalition (NC), an Austrian NGO Network on the Rights of the Child. Together with the other members of the NC we are planning and leading activities to get the Rights of the Child into everyone's mind.
- FICE Austria runs a *Kinderrechtebüro* (Children's Rights Office): www.kinderrechtebuero.at
- FICE Austria is partner of VIVACE, an EU Project: language learning for children at risk outside school.
- FICE Austria is participating in the Quality4Children project. The President of FICE Austria (Monika Niederle) is a member of the Steering Group; the Secretary of FICE Austria (Bettina Terp) is National Coordinator and Cross National Team Facilitator.

5 Future

- First of all: selling the pictures for a good price!
- Getting on with the activities
- Getting more and more members from all relevant fields — which also means enlarging our network
- Starting with a special unit (a very small institution) for children at risk that need good cooperation with psychiatry
- Implementing the Quality4Children standards
- Thinking about publications