



# Newsletter

October 2015

*Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.  
(Nelson Mandela)*

## Colofon

This WEF newsletter is the official publication of the World Education Forum. The primary goal of WEF is to unite educators all over the world to press policy makers to really achieve the UN millennium goals, especially goal 2A (2000-2015 and 4 (2015-2030). You are very welcome to send texts and photographs showing your involvement in this ambition.

The WEF newsletter is gratis and is sent to all member associations, to WEF ambassadors and to our member schools.

Global WEF website: [www.worldeducationforum.com](http://www.worldeducationforum.com)

WEF website NL: <http://wefnederland.wikispaces.com/home>

### **The Board for WEF Global:**

Chair: Ton Duif

Secretary: Rico Monasso

Treasurer: Chris Harrison

Member: Tony Misich

Member: Darrell Rud

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### **Volunteers working at WEF office:**

Lydia van Rietschote, Director

Ton Duif, International Communication

Henk Janssen, International Assistant

Frans Schmitz, International Assistant

Monique Westland, Secretariat

## What does WEF stand for?

In 2011 in Toronto the World Education Forum was founded. The forum wants to improve the access to education for millions of children who still do not get any education at all.



We are sure this goal of ours will be supported by school leaders , teachers, educators, parents, and other proponents of universal access to education for all students from all over the world. The World Education Forum is an independent , non-political organization and is not linked to any religion.

If you don't go to school, you will not be able to read and write, you'll not learn or understand anything about the larger world around you, and you'll have no chance whatsoever in the knowledge society of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

WEF has two main goals:

Building a worldwide network of schools which will hold politicians answerable to the UN agreement that every child has a right to receive education (UN millennium goal 2A)

To achieve this WEF Global gives practical support to organizations and individual school leaders who are committed to setting up a national WEF in their own country.

A national WEF has two main goals:

- building a national network of schools which will hold politicians answerable to the UN agreement that every child has a right to receive education (UN millennium goal 2A)
- supporting schools and organizations which organize sponsor activities on the school level, for and by pupils/students in order to improve education access for fellow-pupils.

By now the WEF network (apart from the Netherlands) is growing by initiatives in the US, England and Bulgaria. Our aim is to unite millions of supporters, which will make us a strong and influential advocate for the right of every child to enjoy access to education.

In the Netherlands more than 500 schools are now a member of WEF. We hope you can start similar initiatives in your country so that our movement is growing fast and strong!

Are you committed to our goal? If so, please become a member and visit [www.worldeducationforum.com](http://www.worldeducationforum.com) !!

# UN have set new goals for the world: the 17 Sustainable Development Goals

WEF, World Education Forum was set up by a number of US-, Canadian and Dutch school leaders, because millennium goal 2A "access to primary education for all children in the world before 2015" would certainly not be achieved before 2015.

WEF wants to stimulate education people and educational institutions all over the world to support and become members of WEF in order to press politicians (bottom up) to give their highest priority to the issue of basic education for all children in the world. Every child that gets no education at all and stays illiterate, will be practically excluded from any personal development in the future. And so again a generation of young people runs the risk of being lost. We are talking here of 57 million children and of 103 million youths missing elementary reading capability now in 2015.



Under results of goal 2A (2000-2015) in the UN-website we read as follows:

- Enrolment in primary education in developing regions reached 91 per cent in 2015, up from 83 per cent in 2000.
- In 2015, 57 million children of primary school age were out of school.
- Among youths aged 15 to 24, the literacy rate has improved globally from 83 per cent to 91 per cent between 1990 and 2015, and the gap between women and men has narrowed.
- In the developing regions, children in the poorest households are four times as likely to be out of school as those in the richest households.
- In countries affected by conflict, the proportion of out-of-school children increased from 30 per cent in 1999 to 36 per cent in 2012.



In countries of conflict, (and there are more now than in 2012!), this percentage of 36% is almost certainly higher than in 2012, if only because of the enormous amount of refugees leaving their countries in war or in great poverty.

The UN have formulated new Sustainable Development Goals for 2015-2030. The education goal is now described as number 4 of 17 re-formulated development goals 2015-2030. An enormous campaign of advertising these goals is being set up right now to inform and stimulate the whole world to realize these goals. This is certainly an important effort: in Facts and Figures it says:

- Enrolment in primary education in developing countries has reached 91 per cent but 57 million children remain out of school
- More than half of children that have not enrolled in school live in sub-Saharan Africa

- An estimated 50 per cent of out-of-school children of primary school age live in conflict-affected area
- 103 million youth worldwide lack basic literacy skills, and more than 60 per cent of them are women

So there is still a lot of work to do for people who are advocates of education for children as a basic right all over the world!

Read more about our activities in this newsletter of our Global World Education Forum.

Henk Janssen, international coordinator WEF Global

## The official start of WEF Bulgaria.



The first international education conference in Plovdiv (Bg) , 4-5 June 2015.

The Dutch delegation knew Maria Gaidarova , school leader in Plovdiv, from her attendance at ESHA meetings and conferences. She supported, from the start, Ton Duif's idea for national World Education Forum (WEFs) all over the world, so she started setting up WEF

Bulgaria. And she organized the first education conference in Plovdiv, the second and oldest town of Bulgaria (European Cultural Capital city in 2019!).

The conference had 2 goals:

1. to give Bulgarian school leaders an opportunity to meet and exchange their ideas about the future of Bulgarian education, and to hear about the newest developments from some speakers outside of Bulgaria

2. to create an official starting moment for WEF Bulgaria

1. was a great success. There were some 200 participants from all over the country, listening and discussing the important issues of Bulgarian (and European) education. Keynote speaker was well-known professor Michael Schratz , Innsbruck University, about "system leadership". From the Dutch delegation Henk Janssen and Frans Schmitz, former headmasters of large secondary schools, gave a workshop on the dilemmas of Moral Leadership in present education. More important perhaps for the Bulgarians were many influential speakers from their own country: the deputy mayor of Plovdiv, the deputy minister of education Bulgaria, professors from Universities and teaching training centers, inspectors, and young, enthusiastic Metodi Terziev for the organization: "Teach for Bulgaria".

2. Official start of WEF Bg: Ton Duif was given the opportunity to explain his ideal of a world where all children go to (at least) primary schools, and his plans to push this goal by organizing a great movement of educators all over the world

to put pressure on politicians and UN to make this their first priority. In an official moment he and Anna signed the contract between WEF Bulgaria and WEF Global. The result of Maria's efforts before and during the conference was that many school leaders decided to make their schools a member of WEF Bg and promised to set up activities to promote its goals.

I experienced the conference as very worthwhile, very warm and inter-active, perfectly organized and full of Bulgarian culture and dance at the official dinner. Great to be there!

## Darrel Rud from US sent us this mail, informing the Utrecht WEF secretariat about the state of affairs for WEF in the United States. Hopeful developments!

International friends of advocacy for the World Education Forum (WEF),

The organizers of the WEF initiative in the United States are waiting for a response from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for authorization to create a non-profit foundation. Until the IRS approves our request, we are unable to collect money including the recruitment of schools, ambassadors, or other supporters!

Past National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) Presidents Mary Kay Sommers, Richard Barbacane and I are the officers of the developing Foundation and we are eagerly looking forward to IRS approval, the development of the Foundation, and helping to bring many United States schools, ambassadors, and supporters into the WEF initiative.

We are also continuing to gain additional support for the WEF initiative by working with our nation's foremost education administrator organizations: the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), the American Association of School Administrators (AASA) as well as NAESP. Plans are developing to create a broad-based Advisory Council and recruit members for the council who can provide new insights and skills on proceeding more effectively.

In 2016, we plan to make presentations to state and national administrator conferences to heighten the awareness of WEF and the worldwide initiative and to gain support from schools, ambassadors and other supporters in our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darrel Rud". The signature is written in a cursive style and is placed on a white rectangular background.

  
**SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS**

**1** NO  
POVERTY



**2** ZERO  
HUNGER



**3** GOOD HEALTH  
AND WELL-BEING



**4** QUALITY  
EDUCATION



**5** GENDER  
EQUALITY



**6** CLEAN WATER  
AND SANITATION



**7** AFFORDABLE AND  
CLEAN ENERGY



**8** DECENT WORK AND  
ECONOMIC GROWTH



**9** INDUSTRY, INNOVATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE



**10** REDUCED  
INEQUALITIES



**11** SUSTAINABLE CITIES  
AND COMMUNITIES



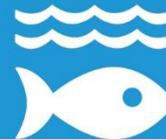
**12** RESPONSIBLE  
CONSUMPTION  
AND PRODUCTION



**13** CLIMATE  
ACTION



**14** LIFE  
BELOW WATER



**15** LIFE  
ON LAND



**16** PEACE, JUSTICE  
AND STRONG  
INSTITUTIONS



**17** PARTNERSHIPS  
FOR THE GOALS

