



## The Rights and Educational Needs of Sick Children and Adolescents

### **Gerd Falk-Schalk**

President of HOPE (Hospital Organisation of Peagogues in Europe)

During the HOPE congress in Munich about 20 participants, members of HOPE from all over the world, joined the HOPE workshop 15, "The educational rights of sick children in hospital and at home". Almost all signed up to give a fresh start to the workshop.

The following three points were on the agenda

1. To modernize the language of the HOPE Charter and the Standard.  
(The Standard [http://www.hospitalteachers.eu/winfos/ap\\_detail.php?recordID=04](http://www.hospitalteachers.eu/winfos/ap_detail.php?recordID=04) suggests further explanations to the ten points of the Charter.)
2. To discuss strategies on how to make best use of the Charter and the Standard.
3. To choose a workshop coordinator.

Alexander Wertgen, Düsseldorf gave a short introduction based on his own work on the HOPE charter and analysis thereof. He argues that it still holds good and may need only small changes. The main criticism lies in the use of the word "sick children" in the English version.

Günter Brehm, Lörrach, reported about his work for HOPE as our representative during the sessions of the non-governmental organizations of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. From experience he felt it necessary to point out that The Council of Europe [www.coe.int](http://www.coe.int) must not be mixed up with the European Union. The CoE has 47 member states and was founded in 1949. In 2011 it celebrates the 50th anniversary of the European Convention on Human Rights and the European Social Charter. HOPE is entitled to lodge complaints against abuses of the said Social Charter (only 12 of the 47 states have agreed to look into complaints leveled against them).

After a presentation of the participants the workshop split into groups to discuss the HOPE Charter and suggest up-dates.

One participant suggested HOPE should add the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to the documents listed for reference in the workshop 15.

The goal of the workshop is to have new formulations ready to present to the General Assembly of HOPE in Amsterdam in 2012. Anyone interested in the process is welcome to sign in to the workshop mailing list. Send e-mail to workshop co-ordinator Gerd Falk-Schalk [018.252682@telia.com](mailto:018.252682@telia.com).



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Unfortunately there was not enough time for further discussions on strategic work nor for the election of a new co-ordinator for the workshop. The group will continue talks exchanging e-mails and undersigned will continue as workshop co-ordinator while trying to find a successor.

Ms Gerd Falk-Schalk, (Uppsala, Sweden)  
interim workshop co-ordinator