

Preface

A third trip around the world

It was five years ago that the Botín Foundation embarked upon a thrilling adventure in the form of its *Innovation in Education Platform* which set out to survey and report on the state of Social and Emotional Education in different parts of the world by means of analysing significant endeavours being undertaken in these countries.

Since then, the Foundation has published two reports, in 2008 and 2011, analysing countries such as Germany, Spain, the USA, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Sweden in the first report, and Australia, Canada, Finland, Portugal and Singapore in the second.

We are now ready to release a third trip around the world –published as the *Botín Foundation Report 2013*– which surveys Social and Emotional Education practices in Argentina, Austria, Israel, Norway and South Africa. As on the previous occasions we would like to thank the authors of the chapters, the editor, Belinda Heys and Christopher Clouder –director of the working group– for the time and effort they have invested in the report.

The fact that 16 countries have now been surveyed shows just how important this line of educational research is for the Botín Foundation. Greater knowledge about educational endeavours around the world which highlight children and teenagers' wellbeing, their emotional, cognitive and social development, and which employ creative and effective strategies to achieve this, provides the Botín Foundation with useful pointers and models to continue developing successful tools and methodologies for its own *Responsible Education* programme in Cantabria. Indeed, the implications run even deeper than this, as the Foundation's programme was extended to Madrid last year, and will now be launched in La Rioja and Navarra.

Undoubtedly, this is one of the most constructive ways to progress. Only exhaustive knowledge about what is happening in the world can provide us with answers to help find the right path and successfully progress in our specific contexts.

This twofold global and local quality will also be embraced by the Botín Centre –the most important project in the Botín Foundation's history to date– designed by the architect Renzo Piano, which will open to the public in the summer of 2014 in the centre of the city of Santander.

The Botín Centre will use the arts to contribute to the development of creativity necessary for enriching the economic and social life in Santander. As a major new art centre for Spain and one of the leading centres on the international art scene it will become a meeting place for locals and visitors and will enhance the life of the city with art and culture.

In addition, the Centre will use the arts to generate emotions to encourage people's creative capacities. In this fashion it will become a pioneering place in the world for the development of creativity. It will be a place where experts and specialists will be able to further and extend the Arts, Emotions and Creativity research already being carried out by the Botín Foundation thanks to a series of partnerships – such as the one set in motion this year with the Emotional Intelligence Centre at Yale University.

What better way could there be to prepare for this important occasion than to read fresh reports written by international experts about the current state of affairs in the field of social and emotional education in their countries? Once again we would like to acknowledge our gratitude to them for gathering at our table and helping us to arrange another trip around the world where new and exciting experiences are waiting to be enjoyed and assimilated.

Iñigo Sáenz de Miera
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