

Multinational Qualitative Study »Children's Understandings of Well-being – Global and Local Contexts« self description from the Estonian Team

We are the three researchers based in Tartu, Estonia: Dagmar Kutsar and Liis-Mari Mandel (see us standing behind the Angel in Cape Town) and Kairi Talves (her photo on the right).

Tartu has a population of almost 100.000 and is the second largest city in Estonia. It is also called »the university city« and »the city of good thoughts« since the biggest and one of the oldest universities in Europe – the University of Tartu – is situated in this city. Dagmar is a professor in the university, Liis-Mari is a second year master's student of Social Work and Social Policy and Kairi is finalising her doctoral studies in Sociology.

We have had a wonderful experience so far in undertaking a study with children about their views about what makes them feel happy at school. Our first interview with kids went so well that the kids wanted to stay longer and so we talked for about 6 hours! During this time kids did a map exercise, a magic wand exercise and prepared several movie clips to introduce their school to the kids from other countries. Children seemed to like these new research methods a lot!



School is not only the place for studying but also a place for communication and chat. A map made by one group of 6th graders during the mapping exercise.