**Goals and stakes of the UNESCO Chair**

The Unesco and the University of Nantes hold the first and unique Chair in the world that is specifically dedicated to philosophical practices with children. The tragic context around the world has raised the public authorities’ awareness regarding the necessity of educating future citizens from a very young age to critical thinking, humanist values, equality between man and women, to the necessity of serene and respectful dialogue between all cultures and to the fight against all form of dogmatism. The Chair dedicated to philosophy with children (aged 4 to 18) aims to help the development of these democratic practices through research, training, dissemination of pedagogical tools in schools and society, dialogue between players and children of the whole world.

The issues at stake regarding the practice of philosophy for children intrinsically rejoin the goals and values of the UNESCO : to often confined to secondary school or university, philosophical practice with children is, yet, one of the most essential driving force to develop critical thinking, democratic skills, empathy, open-mindedness and intercultural dialogue.

The democratization of the teaching of philosophy is a necessity in our contemporary world, as it is characterized by complexity and multiple crisis (of meaning, of values, of democracy, of economy). Thus we rejoin the philosophical preoccupations of Martha Nussbaum in *Political emotions* (2011), in which a chapter is precisely dedicated to philosophy with children. For M. Nussbaum, educational systems tend to leave aside the humanities for the benefit of purely technical knowledge, preparing in this manner a major crisis of democracies. Nevertheless, only literature, philosophy, history and arts can enable citizens to develop their critical capacities and their empathy. The stake of the development of these practices is not only pedagogical, but also fully political, in the most noble sense of the term.

The Chair aims to coordinate and interconnect the different teams and structures who are already working on the subject, to consolidate the collaborations between researchers and practitioners in the context of North/South relations. In addition to the training of facilitators and the development of research , the Chair also aims to set up dialogue between children.

* Valorization, legitimation and development of experimental practices, trainings and existing research on philosophical practices with children thanks to the coordination of an international network
* North (Europe – Québec)/ South (Africa/Maghreb) cooperation in order to create and disseminate pedagogical tools (textbooks, teaching kits, libraries)
* Creation of an academic training in a French speaking university for the facilitation of philosophical practices with children
* Free sharing and presenting of online resources for research and practices on the documentary portal of the Chair.