



Organisation Mondiale pour l'Éducation Préscolaire
Organización Mundial para la Educación Preescolar
World Organisation for Early Childhood Education
www.worldomep.org

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European Newsletter - Boletín - Bulletin



In preparation for the OMEP World Assembly and Conference in Panama City, Panama, July 22-26, 2019

The theme and strands:

IDENTITIES AND CULTURES IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

- The human right to identity. The principles of equality and non-discrimination in education.
- The construction of citizenship and cultures of peace: families, institutions and non-violent, equitable, just and peaceful societies.
- The inclusion of indigenous peoples, afro-descendants, gypsies, children in rural contexts, confinement, children living in

CONTENT

LISBON Declaration in French
National OMEP reports from Lisbon

AT THE LISBON OMEP CONFERENCE IN MAY, MANY COUNTRIES PRESENTED THEIR REPORTS IN WRITING.

YOU WILL FIND SOME OF THEM IN THIS NEWSLETTER, MORE TO COME.

poverty, girls. Migrant and mobilized children. Children with disabilities and diverse talents.

- Children's cultures and cultural proposals for children: the participation of boys and girls.
- Mother tongue and multicultural and intercultural education in early childhood.
- The identities of educators: training dilemmas, stereotypes, feminization, precarization of work. Men in the task of educating.
- Educational policies, curricular designs and educational proposals respectful of identities and cultures.
- Children's culture, play and art in early childhood.
- The impact of technologies and social media on children's identities and cultures.



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DECLARATION 2019 sur les Droits des Enfants

Assemblée européenne de l'OMEP à Lisbonne, 16-18 mai, 2019

Nous, délégués de 20 pays, sommes rassemblés à Lisbonne pour le congrès régional européen, suivi d'une conférence internationale. L'OMEP œuvre pour l'éducation préscolaire, les soins et le bien-être (le care) pour les enfants de 0 à 8 ans. Le thème de la conférence porte sur l'éducation au développement durable avec pour objectif de contribuer à une réorientation vers un futur soutenable. L'éducation commence dès la naissance et dès lors elle développe les valeurs, les attitudes et les comportements des jeunes enfants.

2019 est aussi l'année du 30ème anniversaire de la convention internationale des droits de l'enfant. L'OMEP fut un partenaire actif dans l'écriture de la convention et cette année nous la célébrerons avec les enfants. Selon cette convention, les enfants ont le droit de jouer, le droit à la santé, à l'éducation, aux soins et au care et ce sont nos efforts conjoints qui le rendent possible. L'éducation doit être fondée sur une formation de qualité et sur le droit au respect des enseignants.

Les enfants ont aussi le droit de s'exprimer sur tous les sujets qui les concernent. Ainsi, ils sont de fait des citoyens importants, ayant le droit de participer au développement de nos sociétés pour un avenir soutenable.

Cependant, aujourd'hui, en Europe et dans le monde entier, beaucoup trop d'enfants vivent dans des circonstances inimaginables. Les enfants migrants sont parmi les plus vulnérables. Aux portes de l'Europe, des enfants vivent dans des camps ou sont emprisonnés. Ces enfants qui vivent dans des conditions extrêmes appellent à des actions immédiates. Les gouvernements ont une responsabilité spécifique envers ces enfants pour assurer leur sécurité, les aider et les soutenir.

Pour les jeunes enfants, chaque jour est d'une importance vitale pour leur santé physique et mentale. L'OMEP a été fondée en 1948 sur l'idée commune à tous de l'importance de l'éducation à la paix. Aujourd'hui, le respect et la compréhension de l'égalité entre les peuples et le respect des droits de l'homme doivent toujours être au cœur de nos actions. Les états doivent impérativement reconnaître les droits de tous les enfants, spécialement pour les enfants les plus vulnérables et les enfants à risques. Nous appelons tous les gouvernements à entreprendre immédiatement une action apportant une vie sécurisée à ces enfants.

Ingrid ENGDAHL
Vice-Présidente OMEP Région Europe

Antonio Ponces DE CARVALHO
Président du Comité OMEP du Portugal

L'OMEP est un organisme international, non gouvernemental et sans but lucratif qui s'intéresse à tous les aspects de l'éducation et de la garde des jeunes enfants. L'OMEP a été fondée en 1948 et a un statut consultatif auprès de l'ONU, de l'UNESCO et de l'UNICEF. L'OMEP compte 72 comités nationaux dans toutes les régions du monde, dont 27 en Europe. www.worldomep.org



Who's who in OMEP Croatia?

- Adrijana Višnjić Jevtić, president
- Edita Rogulj, secretary
- Klara Bahtić, member of the board
- Matea Galinec, member of the board
- Eleonora Glavina, member of the board

What do we do in Croatia (and worldwide)?

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

- Trainings for ECE professionals - 350 teachers involved
- Social competences in early childhood (Zagreb)
- Family – school partnerships (Zagreb)
- Education for sustainable development (Zadar, Osijek)
- Enhancing teachers' competences for working with children with special needs (Zagreb)
- Storytelling in early childhood (Zagreb)
- Erasmus+ workshops „Developing Teacher Competences for the Future (Zagreb, Zadar, Jasterbarsko) - 100 kindergarten teachers participated
- Final project conference „Developing Teacher Competences for the Future” - (Split) 200 participants
- Education blog - <http://omep.hr/blog.html>
- Media literacy workshops
 - Project „Media literacy for ECE professionals” – funded by Agency for electronic media

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Celebration of special days (International Day of peace, WASH from the start, ESD project, Play and resilience day)
- Meeting at UNESCO (February, 2018) – THANKS Lisbeth and Danielle ☺
- Erasmus+ project „Developing Teacher Competences for the Future” 2015-1-NO01-KA201-013283
 - 5 countries (Norway, United Kingdom, Poland, Greece, Croatia)
 - <http://omep.hr/developing-teacher-competences-for-the-future.html>
- TRAP (Transition practices) 2018-1-HR01-KA201-047432
 - 4 countries (Iceland, Sweden, Ireland, Croatia)
 - <http://omep.hr/trap/>
- Attending OMEP 70th World Assembly and Conference
 - Established working group „OMEP's youth and young professionals”
 - Neda Grbin (Kindergarten Radost, Zadar) – awarded for ESD project (OMEP Croatia has 3 projects!)

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

- Student activities
- Trainings for ECE professionals
- Publication – *Children right to sustainable development* (cooperation of OMEP Sweden and OMEP Croatia) – celebrating 30th birthday of the Convention on the rights of child
- Celebration of 30th birthday of the Convention on the rights of child- 14th of November, Zagreb – Conference „ Right of the child to continuity in education”

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Introducing OMEP to Youth

- Exchange programs
- Community of practitioners
- University ambassador
- University activities
- Transparency

The Czech OMEP Committee at a Glance

Total number of National Executive Committee members: 11

Total NUMBER of members: 110 (most of them are ECE teachers + Teacher trainers + ECE administrators)

The Czech National Committee is not affiliated with or a part of another organization in CR and we do not have any chapters under our Committee.

Most of our national activities are connect with professional development and training, knowledge exchange, conferences, consultancy, and publication/publicity.

Specifically in 2018:

Main international (and domestic) activity in 2018 was all year preparation and organization of the OMEP 2018 World Assembly and Conference in Prague.

In 2018, the OMEP celebrated its 70th anniversary. The World Assembly and Conference took place from 25 June to 29 June 2018. The Conference was attended by almost 700 participants from 67 countries all over the world. Detailed information, reflection and photos can be seen on www.omep.cz (<https://konference2018.omep.cz/home>).

Our plans for 2019:

- Support and promote ECEC at the national level: mainly via our expertise and consultancy for Ministry of Education and other Pedagogical institutions.
- OMEP World Projects: ESD or others according discussion at ERM.
- Professional development and training: Project for kindergarten teachers and educational faculties students with the topic "Children – foreigners in the Czech kindergarten and their support".
- Knowledge exchange: sending all relevant information in the field of preschool education to our members + sending European newsletters + informative and updated OMEP web (omep.cz).
- Conferences: two conferences with the topic "Children – foreigners in the Czech kindergarten and their support (Friends from afar)".
- Promote the committee and recruit new members: new suggestion for one year membership without payment especially for young teachers and students + travel grant for members.
- OMEP Europe: registration fee contribution to two members of European National Committee.



OMEP Finland

- OMEP Finland Committee is a working group under CUCW (Central Union for Child Welfare)
 - 10 members (CUCW, Mannerheim League for Child Welfare, the City of Helsinki, University of Helsinki, University of Tampere, The Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities, National Agency for Education, National Institute for Health and Welfare, Kindergarten Teachers Union in Finland, University of Applied Sciences/ECEC network)
 - 3-4 meetings per year
- The Finnish OMEP Committee follows that the high quality of the Finnish ECEC system is ensured. OMEP Finland advocacy work and lobby decisionmakers to take into consideration children's rights and the child's best interest during all official decision-making processes (especially ECEC)
 - OMEP paper concerning pre-primary education in Finland
 - In Finland, pre-primary education lasts for one year and begins in the year when a child turns six. Now we are discussing whether also 5-year-old children should participate in pre-primary education (at the moment 5-year-old children are in kindergarten and it is voluntary for the children/families). OMEP Finland made a paper where we point out the different issues and points of view that should be taken into consideration in the decision making process.
 - Members of OMEP Committee have participated in the preparatory work for National Strategy for Children 2040
 - Preparation of a national strategy for children was launched in Finland in the spring of 2018. It is proposed that the work concerning the Strategy for Children is included in the commitments of the next Government Programme.
 - In recent years OMEP Finland has organized several seminars on current issues (the quality of ECEC for example).
- OMEP Finland has hosted several international delegations who have come to Finland to get to know Finnish ECEC system (from Germany, Japan and Scotland for example)
- Playday is the national day for play in Finland, traditionally held on the beginning of May. The Playday aims to highlight the many ways in which play is beneficial to children, but also to adults. Playday is coordinated by Mannerheim League for Child Welfare and many members of OMEP committee are involved in it.
- UNCRC
 - CUCW coordinates the alternative report to the UN Committee. OMEP Finland has commented the alternative report on issues concerning ECEC.
 - Finland will submit its report to the Committee this spring/summer.
 - CUCW together with other organisations and partners plan and organise the Children's Rights Week in November (18.-22.11.2019).
 - Materials that kindergartens/pre-schools and schools can use to raise awareness of children's rights. The theme of the week is: a child's right to be himself/herself



- **2018 OMEP-France Activity Report**
- **Danièle Perruchon, OMEP-France President**

- OMEP-France now has a very small membership (60, mostly retired) and moreover we are very busy with the work of OMEP representation at UNESCO (participation in the Forum and World or International Days in Paris).
- The UNESCO report will be made at the World Assembly in Panama, particularly focusing on the training project of hydrological technicians in Burkina Faso for which Eli Bergsvik, World Treasurer, has done a lot of work.

- **National activities**
- **Partnership** with Early Childhood settings concerning children's play and literature and organization of coffee house meetings with parents in prison.

- **Migrant children:** OMEP-France conference «70 years of OMEP and Literature and Migration» : »: how does young people's literature allow us to work with children around the subject of diversity and its acceptance from an early age ? How does it make it possible to respect the culture of others, particularly that of migrants, and thus facilitate their inclusion ? What strategies should be implemented to change the emotional, cultural and social thinking of young children ? How to choose appropriate books to use with children in an inclusive and constructive way ? And more broadly, how can all children and their families, regardless of their origin, be accommodated in an inclusive way ?

- **Children's rights:** development of educational tools since 1999 (Edition of a "Children's Rights Book" in 2008); Call for projects to celebrate the 30th anniversary of CRC/CIDE on November 20, 2019, with kindergartens, nurseries, associations in Paris and in the provinces.

- **Children and screens** : Operation "A week without screens" in June 2018 : conference on screen addiction ; production of a film in cooperation with a theatre, reporting the outcome of this week,
- « **Assises de l'Ecole Maternelle française** » in Paris : Participation in the drafting and dissemination of the OMEP-France declaration on compulsory schooling at the age of 3.
- **Kindergartens seminar in Paris** on the theme of numeracy : presentation of OMEP projects

- **Welcoming delegations** : OMEP-Croatia and Vice-President Latin America, Mercédès Mayol-Lassalle.

- **International activities in Africa**
- The end of the project in progress since 2011 for the construction and organisation of the daycare and resource centre in Ndiagianiao (Senegal) : 3 classrooms, sanitary block, kitchen; material resources and pedagogical follow-up.

The German National Committee has been working recently or is still working on the following main topics. These have been and are being critically and professionally accompanied through the publication of papers or by interfering in the social discussion.

□ Quality development process in child day care in Germany □ Dealing with contents and procedures of the Federal Act on the Further Development of Quality and Participation in Child Day Care □ Critical monitoring of the process and the Federal Act

□ Topic More men in child day care (paper) □ Demands for the development of gender-sensitive pedagogical strategies and concepts and their sustainable implementation □ the need to create conditions which take account of the specific situation of male skilled workers in a field of work with a strong female connotation

□ Children's rights in child day care (paper) □ Perspective on children's rights in child day care and participation of children in the daily routine of child day care □ Institutional requirements for participation in early education □ Recommendations for action for providers of non-statutory organisations and statutory authorities of child and youth welfare services and their institutions.

□ Access to child day care. A view from child rights perspective (paper) □ View on the need of places, need of qualified workers, award criteria for receiving a place and possible discriminating processes □ Demand to dismantle existing obstacles to the child day care system.

□ Full-day care at primary school age (paper) □ Focus on quality from a parent's, but especially from a child's point of view □ Recommendations for conditions of the design of a child-based full-day care

□ Care and care work (paper) □ Focus on consideration of already existing support options and different models □ Demand to perceive care work as a task for society as a whole.

□ Education for Sustainable Development in Germany (Bildung für Nachhaltige Entwicklung) □ Critical reflection and discussion of the National Action Plan for the implementation of the UNESCO Global Action Programme (GAP) on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) (2015-2019).

□ Fifth and Sixth State Party Reports of the Federal Republic of Germany regarding the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child □ Current Developments and Expert Exchange on the State and Parallel Report □ Creation of an intermediate call to strengthen children's rights and bring them into discussion

□ Further discussions and exchange of expertise on current topics □ Quality of providers of child day care □ current political initiative



**The Italian Preparatory Committee
is halfway through its journey towards officialization.**

In this intense year of work, we managed to reaffirm a presence for the Organization that in Italy was long forgotten. It was not easy to recover the historical traces and reconstruct the events linked to the old Italian Committee. Despite this, we have always persevered, with the conviction that regains possession of important history, because it is also linked to the origins of OMEP, was not only necessary - in order not to believe that we were starting from zero - but that it was also precious for the Organization in its entirety. We were able to retrieve documents, testimonies, texts and personal biographies that tell the story of OMEP in a meaningful way. All the material of these historical researches will end up on the Italian site of OMEP that will be translated in the three official languages of the Organization: because we believe that this story, that we have rediscovered, is worthy of being brought to the knowledge of all.

In this year we have re-established connections with historical institutions that deal with early childhood education in Italy and will continue on this path; we intend to constitute ourselves as a point of reference to make contact with those educational experiences, which are more significant for our country, and which from abroad many may be interested in knowing and meeting.

Our strategy has been pursued with the aim of re-establishing an Italian presence in the international and in the local dimensions, with the contribution of passionate and competent new members, at multiple levels. During these years of reconstitution, we continue to deepen and analyze the type of projects that we will want to develop at the national level, connected to the general objectives of the Organization. So far, three work directions have been identified: the first concerns a project linked to expressive and artistic activities - to give voice and to reach even the youngest children -, the second one concerns the theme of the male figure in pre-school education and the third one concerns the topic of intergenerational education. At the end of the two years of work of the Preparatory Committee, we trust that we will be able to detail these projects and we hope that on that occasion we will already be able to include other Committees that are willing to collaborate.

Currently, OMEP in Italy has a web presence, with a specific website, and a physical presence, with an office in Rome located in the most multi-ethnic neighborhood of the capital, where coexistence and educational experiences with a high social value take place. It is a showcase for the Organization that must be known again, and a place for promoting culture and children's rights: with a look at the world as a single home for humanity.

OMEPE Italia has produced contributions that will be included in official publications and on which the Italian delegates will report to the World Assembly of Panama. Precisely this July meeting will constitute for the Italian Preparatory Committee an acceleration point in the work of reconstitution: with the choice of additional members, the concretization of the national projects announced and a precise presence on digital platform: also from the point of view of the documentation produced, available to the other Committees and of the Organization worldwide.

We are confident that this work which sees us as new members, but bearers of a significant history - a zero full of potential - will bear its good fruits and will see us in a worthy way alongside the valuable and important work of the other European Committees.

Matteo Corbucci www.omepitalia.org info@omepitalia.org

The aim of OMEP Norway is *hope for the future* through children's education, care, play and formation.

OMEP Norway will continue to support research and activities, which will promote children's quality of life and advocate children's rights as expressed in the UN Convention of Children's Rights. Furthermore, OMEP Norway will continue to work for international understanding with focus on peace and safety for children and families.

OMEP Norway is working locally as well as globally.

We have established a cooperation with KINDknow, center for research within early childhood education, localized in Bergen. Nationally we are working to strengthen our organization by establishing several local subgroups and a student organization of OMEP Norway. We will also continue to strengthen our Nordic and European collaboration. Among other activities, we had a visit from OMEP Poland last year. We have communication with OMEP Sweden in order to elaborate further collaboration. OMEP Norway and OMEP Kenya has signed a MoU (Memorandum of Understanding). Furthermore, OMEP Norway supports the OMEP world membership of Cuba.

OMEP Norway focus on four main areas:

1. Children's play

OMEP Norway is gives a Lekepris to a person or an institution, which has made a special effort to advocate children's play and creative activities. Furthermore, OMEP Norway will celebrate May 28, which is the "Playday" by having an exhibition on Bergen public library. The focus of the drawings is children's favorite play, favorite playmate and favorite space of play. OMEP Norway is supporting the first toy library in Kenya financially. In January, some of the students having internship in kindergartens in Kenya, brought suitcases with toys and a computer to the library. OMEP Norway wants to establish the toy library as a solidarity project involving four Norwegian kindergartens.

2. Peace efforts

OMEP Norway wants to continue the OMEP tradition and focus on *Hope for the Future* by celebrating the Peace Day September 21 in collaboration with other peace organizations.

Furthermore, we want to raise the public attention to the situation of the IS children in Syria by writing articles in newspapers highlighting this issue.

We have membership and participate in the Norwegian forum for UN's Convention on the Rights of the Children.

3. Education for sustainable development

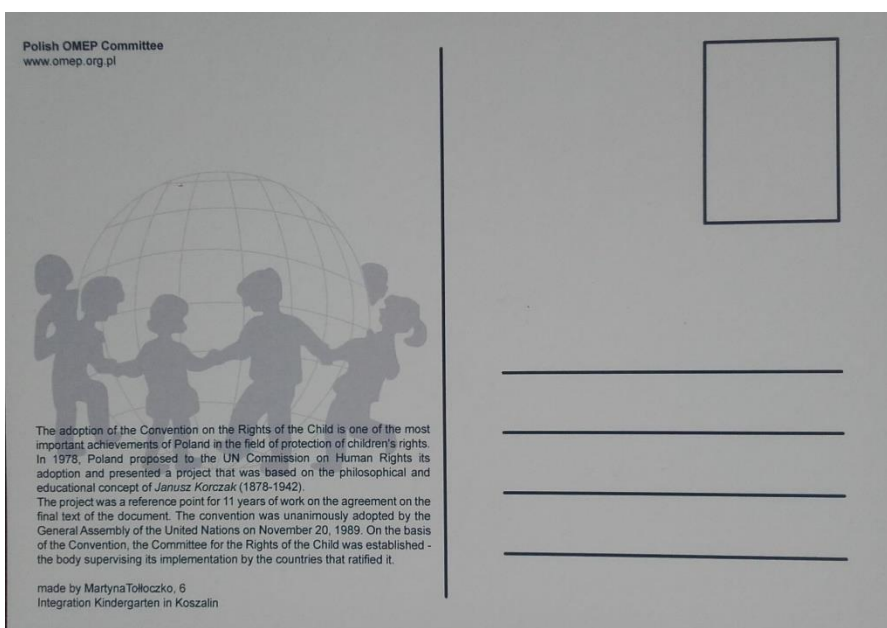
OMEP Norway is involved in an international project including early childhood education in China and Norway. We are establishing a collaborative project in the China – Norway kindergarten network with focus on Education for Sustainable Development.

4. Policies with focus on children' education

- Giving consultative statements to white papers about issues concerning children
- Being engaged in policy development of kindergartens in Norway



OMEP Poland handed out postcards for celebrating the 30 years with UNCRC A good idea, that could well be taken up in more countries.



The Swedish OMEP-committee report, Lisboa 2019.

We are 13 members of the Swedish board with different professions, such as psychologists architect, pediatrician, researcher as well as teacher. We have 112 members, both individual and organizations. Communication with members through a national journal, 3 times/year, a website and facebook groups.

We act as influencers for the rights of children and their wellbeing in society, in the public debate we play an active role.

In 2018 we have been involved in:

- the revision of the national curriculum for the preschool. We sent our suggestions to the government over the proposed curriculum. We are happy to see that we were listened to in many aspects concerning ESD, gender and the importance of play as a s for learning.
- celebrating OMEP 70 years with seminars, lectures and issuing an anniversary publication to distribute and communicate what OMEP stands for.
- project concerning the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child with a children's book, a teachers guide, music on Spotify and workshops.
- finishing a study about cooperation between preschool and Child Health Care and the study found a lack of cooperation.
- network for the Convention of the rights of the child, sending the national report to UNCRC in Geneva.

For 2019:

- to continue ongoing projects
- make the OMEP Action plan a live document and use it
- translate the OMEP declaration to Swedish and send it to politicians
- pay attention to Convention of the child 30 years in november.

Bibi Karlsson,

for the Swedish Committee of OMEP www.omep.org.se





OMEP WA and Conference

in PANAMA in July 2019

<https://omeppanama.com/en>

Proposal

Agenda for the Regional meeting during the World Assembly

Tuesday July 23, 9.10-11 am

1. Meeting Procedures
chair, secretary, agenda etc.
2. Minutes from Lisbon May 16, 2019
3. Reports from national committees
4. Other reports
5. Action plan for Europe 2019-2020
 - UN CRC 30 years
 - ESD projects
 - Other projects
 - What else?
6. Any WA related topic
7. Any other business
8. Next meeting and Closure

As usual, we have only two hours for this regional meeting, so please, come well prepared if you want to bring up new topics.

In Lisbon, half of the countries handed out written reports, and it went smoothly. Handing out copies makes it easier for everyone to follow the proceedings.

Welcome – Ingrid Engdahl

This newsletter is forwarded to you by each national OMEP committee. To unsubscribe - contact your national president.

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What's up in Europe? Send your contribution to the next newsletter to ingridengdahl@gmail.com

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