



Organisation Mondiale pour L'Éducation Préscolaire  
World Organization for Early Childhood Education  
Organización Mundial para la Educación Preescolar

### EXCO-COMMUNICATION 03: April 12th, 2021

A new month has gone by, with plenty of work, news, meetings and opportunities. I am proud to be part of a community which, no matter what obstacles and adversities come its way, is determined to come closer together, build relationships and create collective knowledge. There is no doubt that OMEP is known for its availability and commitment to take action. Whether we are in person or in a virtual setting, we are always working for the protection and promotion of the right to care and education during early childhood.

In its role of ECOSOC-accredited NGO, OMEP participated in the 65th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, CSW65, which took place in a hybrid format from March 15th to 26th, 2021. It was the largest meeting on women's rights held by the UN and a solid plan was presented regarding the strengthening of women's leadership and participation in public life. OMEP held a successful paralel meeting coordinated by our representative at the UN, Jessica Essary, and with the participation of Rima Salah, Raúl Mercer, Anne-Claire de Liedekerke and this Presidency.

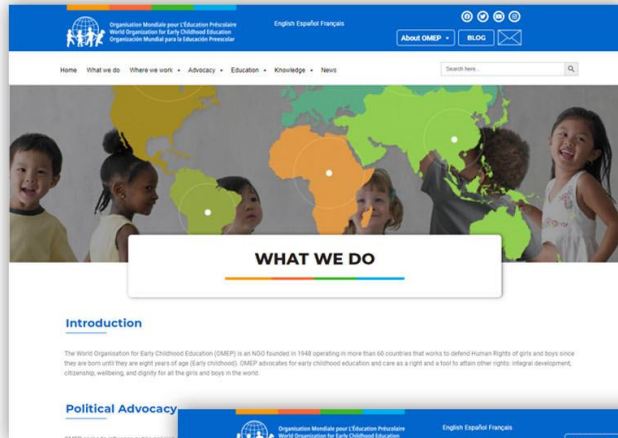
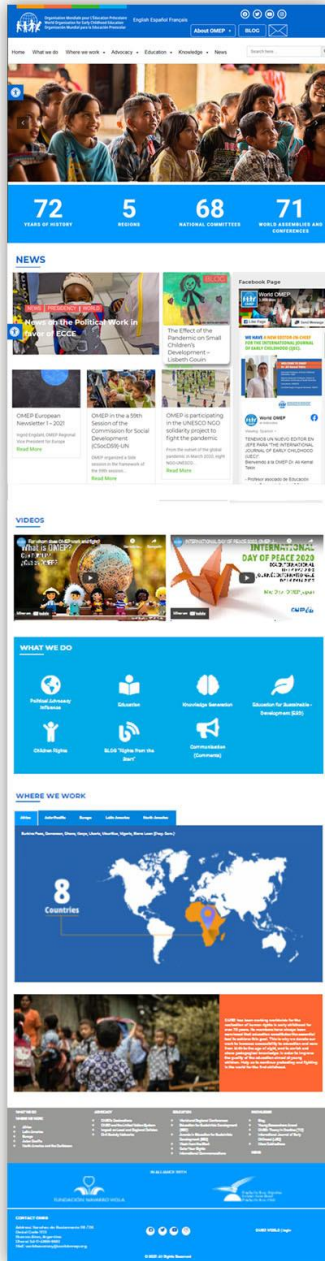
I have also met with the President of **OMEP France**, Danièle Perruchon, and colleagues Lisbeth Gouri and Michelle Cantat-Merlin in the light of their successful management to transfer files of utmost importance from OMEP France to the University of Angers, specialized in archives and libraries. These documents are available, not only for local researchers, but for researchers worldwide.

Moving forward with our **COMMUNICATION PLAN**, this month we started implementing the standardization of our **OMEP brand** (logo), together with the launch of **OMEP's new webpage**, [www.omepworld.org](http://www.omepworld.org), which is already available but still under construction. Our webpage is and will be the responsibility of all our members, so we count on your valuable input to improve its design and content. Our goal is that the publications reflect the dynamic nature of your actions, your diverse perspectives and your commitment towards human rights. I would like to specially thank the communication team for their work and extend my invitation to everyone to explore the webpage, to get to know it, profit from it and enjoy it.

Lastly, I would like to send my **ecumenical regards** after the Jewish Passover (Pesaj), the Holy Week and Catholic Easter holidays, wishing happiness, health and peace to all the boys and girls from every country, to all the people worldwide and to each OMEP member.

*Mercedes*

**VISIT OMEP's New Webpage**  
<https://omepworld.org/>



**EXCO MEETINGS**

During the month of March, the monthly meeting of the World Executive Committee (EXCO) was held, during which the following topics were discussed:

- 1- **IJEC: selection of candidates for Editor in Chief:** the selection process and interviews with the three selected candidates were held during March.
- 2- **2021 Virtual World Assembly:** it will be held through different world and regional sessions in order to guarantee the participation of all Committees. It is expected to hold the Virtual World Assembly by **the end of August 2021.**
- 3- **OMEP 2021 Permanent Seminar:** given the fact that, for two years, we have been unable to hold our World Conference, as from March, there will be a series of world webinars connected to the regional

discussions in order to tackle issues regarding OMEP's **emblematic initiatives** put forward in the 2020-2023 Estrategic Plan.

## March 2021 News

### 1. PARTICIPATIONS OF THE WORLD PRESIDENT

- **UNICEF: Bringing Children Out from the Shadows: The urgent need to disaggregate and share COVID-19 data for children's well-being.** March 8th, 2021. Side Event of the 52nd session of the United Nations Statistical Commission.
- **Introduction to the ECE Accelerator Toolkit.** This webinar held on March 9th was the first of a series of events to work on this toolkit.
- **OMEP at EDHEROES FORUM, RUSSIA.** Education in the COVID era: Family in Focus. March 12th to 14th, 2021. More information at: <https://edheroes.family> On our Youtube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uwHJudPTcNc>
- **Latin American Regional Seminar: Education and care in early childhood: challenges for public policies**  
Organized by: OMEP, @red.clade @clacso\_oficial  
In partnership with: @iinoea\_oficial y @educu\_ong  
Submissions: **March 15th to April 20th.** Begins: **May 3rd, 2021.**  
**CLOSED ENROLLMENT. VACANTS FULL.**
- **NGO Major Group Meeting.** March 10th. Insights for the Main Group. Interested in the scheme for the 2021 HLPF Ministerial Declaration.
- **OMEP Argentina/SAPI Conference.** March 19th. Roundtable: Early childhood matters. Coordination: Rut Kuitca on behalf of OMEP and Nora Woscoboinik Scheimberg for SAPI.
- **IAEG-SDGs Open Virtual Meeting.** March 25th. Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators.
- **CLADE: UPR High Level Political Forum and Committee on the Rights of the Child.** March 30th. Improve practical strategies of the organizations involved.

### 2. ACTIVITIES IN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

- **Achieving women empowerment — Care and Development in Early Childhood: Mutual Benefit for two generations.** March 17th.  
OMEP and ECPC (Early Childhood Peace Consortium) organized this side event for the CSW65 NGO Virtual Forum, from NGO CSW NY (NGO Committee on the Status of Women, New York). For more information, visit: @ngo\_csw\_ny.  
Video: <https://youtu.be/lgWYAfvT IA>
- **Meeting with OMEP Representatives at the UN.** On March 12th, a meeting was held with our representatives María Pia Belloni, Donna-Akilah Wright, Patricia Hanley, Kimberly Ann Kopko and Jessica Essary. They shared news on the GPS (Global Partnership Strategy for ECCE/ECD) and its connection with the Decade for Early Childhood. They discussed the participation in UNESCO's "Future Education" initiative, among others.

### 3. VP for EUROPE: Ingrid Engdahl

The "Virtual Café" with members from the European Region was held on March 9th, with the presence of the World President and representatives from the following National Committees: Bulgaria, Ireland, Italy, Belgium, Bosnia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Greece, Poland, Croatia, Russia, Sweden, United Kingdom.

Moreover, former OMEP World President Ingrid Pramling Samuelsson was also present to inform about the current **Global Strategic Partnership for Early Childhood Care and Education** initiative, which is coordinated by UNESCO. OMEP is represented by Lisbeth Gouin (OMEP France), Danièle Perruchon (OMEP France), Ingrid Engdahl (VP OMEP Europe) and Mercedes Mayol Lasalle (OMEP World President). Maria Vassiliadou, President of OMEP Cyprus, shared news on the "Colour Your Rights" project. New plans are under development, which include a catalog, a pamphlet and an exhibition.

#### 4. VP for AFRICA: Nyamikeh Kyiamah

The “Virtual Café” with members from the African Region was held on February 24th, with the presence of the World President and representatives from the following National Committees: Ghana, Sierra Leone, Nigeria and Kenya.

#### 5. VP for NORTH AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: Christiane Bourdages Simpson

The “Virtual Café” was not held this month in this region due to serious communication problems with Haiti. A meeting will be arranged soon with the United States. As regards Canada, its Committee is undergoing a restructuring process. More news will be shared in the next report.

#### 6. VP for ASIA-PACIFIC: Udomluck Kulapichitr

The “Virtual Café” with members from the Asia-Pacific Region was held on March 24th, with the presence of the World President and representatives from the following National Committees: Australia, Japan, Hong Kong-China, New Zealand and Thailand.

#### 7. VP for LATIN AMERICA: Desiree López de Maturana

The “Virtual Café” with members from the Latin American Region was held on March 17th, with the presence of the World President and representatives from the following National Committees: Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Chile, Cuba, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.

#### 8. CAMPAIGNS AND WORK ON SOCIAL MEDIA

→ **Abidjan Principles and OMEP “Rights from the Start” (video 3)**

Facebook: <https://fb.watch/4fcGOX3YvS/>

→ **International Women’s Day**

Facebook: <https://fb.watch/4xHxkXwVBV/>

→ **World Water Day**

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/WorldOMEP/photos/a.303438693141857/1928620760623634/>

→ **Reflection upon the opening of kindergartens in Latin America**

Facebook: <https://fb.watch/4gVsG26Ckp/>

→ **12th Annual Competition on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)**

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/WorldOMEP/photos/a.303438693141857/1913453838806993/>

→ **3rd Annual Competition on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) for Bachelors and Master's Degree students**

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/WorldOMEP/photos/a.303438693141857/1913451155473928/>

### OMEP BLOG “Rights from the start”

It is a space to reflect upon early childhood education and defend it, with the voices of great leaders around the world.

**SUBSCRIBE AND SHARE!**

→ **“When Music Touches Us”** by Karina Malvicini. Buenos Aires, Argentina. “Touch with a song” was the beautiful sign that led me to reflect upon how these small minimal gestures (as Carlos Skliar calls them), which happen all the time in the classroom, tell a lot about the internal world of the young students with whom we share our days. To continue reading, click here:

<https://omepworld.org/when-music-touches-us-karina-malvicini/>

→ **“The Effect of the Pandemic on Small Children’s Development”** by Lisbeth Gouin. Paris, France. For the past year, the humanitarian crisis brought about by COVID-19 and its unprecedented consequences have shaken the whole world. The lockdown and the restrictions on many activities, including the shut down of schools and early childhood care centers, brought sanitary and psychological consequences, which are worrying, even frustrating, to many societies. To continue reading, click here:

<https://omepworld.org/the-effect-of-the-pandemic-on-small-childrens-development-lisbeth-gouin/>

## 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

We thank the countries who sent their reports:

- ★ **Africa:** Nigeria, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Sierra Leone, Cameroon, Kenya
- ★ **Asia-Pacific:** Hong Kong-China, Korea, New Zealand, China, Japan, Australia, Pakistan, Thailand, Singapore
- ★ **Europe:** Spain, Portugal, Czech Republic, France, Sweden, Greece, Bulgaria, Belgium, Poland, Russia, Germany, Lithuania, Italy, Croatia, Turkey, United Kingdom, Ukraine, Finland, Norway, Slovakia, Cyprus, Ireland, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Latvia
- ★ **North America and the Caribbean:** Haiti, United States, Canada
- ★ **Latin America:** El Salvador, Peru, Bolivia, Colombia, Cuba, Panama, Argentina, Paraguay, Mexico, Ecuador, Chile, Venezuela, Uruguay

## IMPORTANT DATES

### COLOUR YOUR RIGHTS

→ **CALL FOR PROJECT:** until **June 30th, 2021**

In case of doubts, please contact: [vassiliadoum@omep.com.cy](mailto:vassiliadoum@omep.com.cy)

#### Phase 1: National Call

Presidents share information and encourage teachers and children to participate.

Each National Committee will receive the art pieces in digital format and will choose a project leader.

**Participants must write to the National Committee of their country.**

#### Phase 2: National Selection

Each National Committee will select 10 pieces from different age groups.

Then, they will be sent in two groups: one up to the age of 6 and the other one between the ages of 6 and 8.

Each piece must include the name and age of the participant.

It may optionally include: name of the school, country and title of the piece on the back side.

It is also important to mention the article of the UNCRC the children have worked on and, optionally, there can be a comment by the artists.

#### Final phase: Exposition

The pieces will be exhibited in various ways:

- In a virtual exhibition on **OMEP Cyprus’ webpage**. 10 pieces from each country will participate.
- In a special exhibition in Cyprus on **November, 2021**, in a special forum-like celebration on the Rights of the Child, to which several actors from universities, ministries and NGOs will be invited to participate.
- Every President who wishes to participate in the **world exhibition** with the **original pieces** must take 2 pieces to the OMEP Assembly and World Conference in Athens (July, 2022).
- They will be part of a **book** which will have a story that connects all selected art pieces. The final format of the book will depend on the sponsors’ collaboration.

## OMEP INTERNAL CALL: World Team of Volunteer Translators

To improve our ability to share and exchange OMEP's ideas and actions on our website, blog and social media, we are creating a group of volunteers to help with the translation of posts, short articles, statements and videos.

If you would like to be part of the **World Team of Volunteer Translators**, please register here:

<https://forms.gle/xho1EKfvCk7qv7mQ9>