



Organisation Mondiale pour l'Éducation Préscolaire  
Organización Mundial para la Educación Preescolar  
World Organisation for Early Childhood Education  
[www.worldomep.org](http://www.worldomep.org)

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## European Newsletter - Boletín - Bulletin



1989 20 nov 2019

This month marks an important step for the children of the world. After 30 years with the convention: the first intention of UNCRC that child rights should be incorporated into national legislation has been achieved. Children today in many countries, are recognized as citizens with their own rights. However, not all rights for children specified in UNCRC are respected or addressed.

OMEP argues that:

Children in migration are among the most vulnerable, and on the doorsteps to Europe, there are children living in camps, even imprisoned. These children are living in extreme conditions, calling for immediate action.

Governments have a special responsibility towards these children, to bring them to safety, to help and support them.

For young children, every single day is of vital importance for their physical and mental health.:

The words and concepts children use are points of origin from which we may further develop the children's thought and experiences. Their contributions may show us the way for working towards a sustainable lifestyle.

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UNCRC 20 NOVEMBER

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ATHENS 2020



Now is the time for State parties to renew their commitments, redouble their efforts and take all possible actions to fulfil the rights of all children and especially for the most vulnerable and children at risk.

We call on all governments to take immediate action to guarantee the children a safe life and for each boy and every girl to develop to their fullest potential, leaving no one behind.

*Ingrid Engdahl*

Please send me reports about what happened in your country on November 20, 2019!

\_\_\_\_ Editor: Dr. Ingrid Engdahl, Vice President for Europe

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e-mail address: [ingridengdahl@gmail.com](mailto:ingridengdahl@gmail.com)

## OMEP Bulgaria



I would like to inform you about the celebration organized by the BNC- OMEP on 15 October marking the anniversary of the UNCRC, together with our partners from: Ministry of Education, UNESCO, UNICEF, Agency for Child Protection, National Network for Children, Caritas- Sofia, and others.

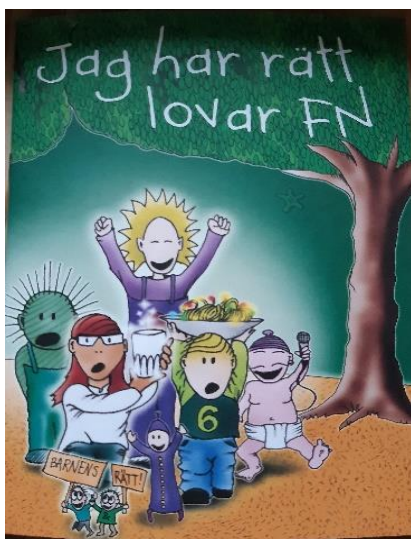
There was an active participation of about 100 teachers, who presented materials and shared their experience on the topic, rights of children.

The subject of the round table was " The voice of children"

*Elena Roussinova*

## OMEP Sweden

On October 10, OMEP Sweden organised a seminar where NGOs from the UNCRC Network in Sweden presented exhibitions, materials, experiences and thoughts for the future



*UN promises: I have rights*

OMEP Sweden has produced a booklet for children, following up on initiatives that were common in the early 1990's.

Talks were delivered around the fact that UNCRC is given the status as Swedish law, by 1 January 2020.

A child paediatrician talked about the unequal conditions for children's health in Sweden but also around the world. Preschools presented their work around the UNCRC with children and UNICEF argued for continued and larger efforts around especially children who are refugees and displaced around the world and in Sweden.

*Ingrid Engdahl*

## OMEP Italy

Greetings from OMEP Italy who are continuing to draw on the history of OMEP in Italy.



Baggio  
Graxiano  
and  
Matteo  
Corbucci  
At Opera  
Maria  
Montes-  
sori

A visit to Opera Nazionale de Montessori in Rome discovered many interesting contributions, most of the documented in the journal *Vita dell'Infanzia*. During the 1960's and 1970's, OMEP and the Montessori organisation were collaborating, and the journal tells about pedagogical debates and reunions and meeting.



Parts of the OMEP preparatory committee in Rome, in October 2019.

Later, at a committee meeting with OMEP Italy we discussed the role of OMEP and the fact that many OMEP national committees are welcoming Italy back into OMEP. In addition to describing the roots of OMEP Italy, the committee is discussing a possible project for OMEP Italy, as well as considering the world projects.

*Ingrid Engdahl*

## OMEP Greece

OMEP Greece has successfully organised the 12<sup>th</sup> Panhellenic conference on early childhood education. The event took place on 1-3 of November in Patras and in collaboration with the University of Patras.



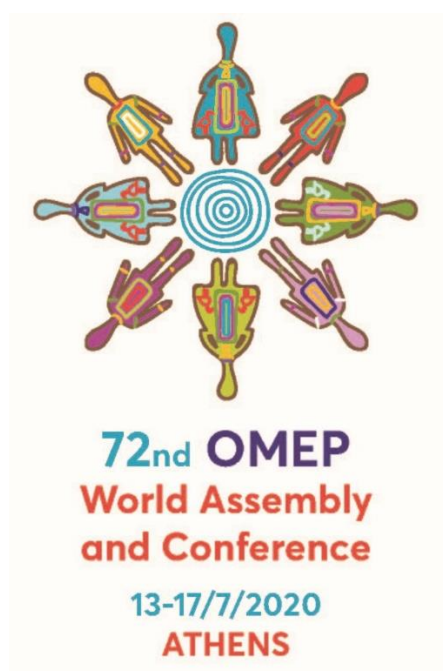
This event was also a celebration, marking the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of OMEP Greece.

Around 400 members and teachers from all Greece participated. Seminars and workshops dominated the programme in a beautiful late summer weather.

Two of the organisers: Vassiliki Pliougou, OMEP Patras chapter, and Effrosyni Katsikonouri, OMEP Greece.



International contributions addressed the art of understanding the children's perspective with the Mosaic approach (Alison Clark), the importance of observation and documentation of individual children (Rosie Flewitt) and the role of OMEP for a sustainable society (Ingrid Engdahl). Domna-Mika Kakana talked about policy and Alessandra Andruso about the situation for refugees.



And of course, the OMEP 2020 Conference in Athens were promoted. There was also a meeting with representatives from all universities to discuss their contributions in Athens.

[www.omep2020.org](http://www.omep2020.org)



OMEP

Organisation Mondiale pour L'Éducation Préscolaire  
World Organisation for Early Childhood Education  
Organización Mundial para La Educación Preescolar  
Παγκόσμια Οργάνωση Πρώτης Αγωγής και Εκπαίδευσης

CYPRUS

OMEP

## COMMITTEE

News Letter November 2018 – November 2019

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### MAIN ACTIVITIES November 2018 – today

- Different workshops/seminars for educators.
- The president of the Omep Cyprus Committee was invited by Nektarios Stellakis to deliver a **seminar and workshop** for educators who are working in refugee camps at different islands of Greece. The workshop's and seminar's theme were about psychological and sentimental health and resilience.
- We designed the **Omep Cyprus website**, which was something that was missing from our organisation and it is very helpful for communication and announcements.
- **Conference:** Last November the 2<sup>nd</sup> Pancyprian OMEP Conference with the theme "ART, PLAY and CHILD" took place at Frederick University in Nicosia, Cyprus. More than 170 educators, government officials, social workers and psychologists attended and participated in the conference. Academic from Cyprus, Greece and abroad delivered presentations and workshops. It was a very successful conference and thanks to it we gained new members from the academia as well as university student members.

Mercedes Mayol Lasalle, Vice President of Omep Latin America, and Nektarios Stellakis, Vice president of Omep Europe, were among the invited speakers.

During the conference **an art exhibition** was held with the works of children from different Omep member countries, done for the celebration of the Omep's 70 Anniversary. The exhibition took place at Polydynamo Dimotiko Kentro, at Nicosia. During the opening we had an artistic Dance presentation and many people attended among them Ministry officers, academics, artists and representatives of different embassies.

- The president of Omep Cyprus committee and other members of the council have attended different Omep conferences: Croatia, Praha, Greece, Portugal and Panama.

### FUTURE PROJECTS

- Members of Omep Cyprus Council will offer series of different workshops at the Kofinou Refugee camp with collaboration with the "Sunday School".
- During the months of October – November different workshops will be offered for all Omep members and for new members as well.
- Publishing of the "2<sup>nd</sup> Pancyprian Omep Conference" proceedings.
- Omep Cyprus and Omep Russia will collaborate for the Doll-toy project.
- A fair for the celebration of the day of the Child dedicated to Children's right will take place November 2019. The fair will be open to all children for play and for creative activities.
- Maria Vassiliadou, president of Omep Cyprus Committee will co-ordinate an Omep World Artistic Project based on the children's rights. The project was proposed by her during last world president's assembly in Panama and has been voted as a world project by the world assembly.
- Members of the Council will meet with various authorities in Cyprus, including the Minister of Education, in order to inform them on Omep's aims and the new declaration.

# Invitation to OMEP World Art Project

## Colour your rights: 30 years with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Dear National Presidents of OMEP

It is a pleasure and a great honour for the OMEP Cyprus Committee to invite you to participate in the CREATIVE ART WORLD OMEP Project for the 30 years of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child which was endorsed during the meeting for World Projects at the OMEP World Assembly in Panama, July 2019.

The idea to let children show us how they feel, understand and express their feelings about their rights through art was discussed and accepted first by the participants of different countries at the meeting and then voted by all presidents during the closing of the World Assembly as a world project. It is well known that artistic expression is a common non-verbal language for all, without exclusion nor discrimination. It is a way of communication among all people, no matter the age, the culture, the country of living, the religion, above all it is children's right to express themselves through art.

- Let the children tell us about their perception of their rights, globally.
- Become a way of communication between different member countries of World OMEP.
- To create future connections for exchange projects.
- To become a tool to demonstrate to different governmental or nongovernmental organizations the multiple faces of OMEP.
- To make influential people pay attention to early childhood needs.
- To gain interest from educators on the vision of OMEP and make them become members in their country.

This project aims to give the children the opportunity to participate actively in the application of their rights. Therefore, no specific article of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child has been chosen, because it is important to let children in each country, with the help of their educators, choose the article/s that they want to work with, depending on their needs and also on the importance of the application of a specific article in each country.

**Project goal:** The goal of this project is to let children illustrate their perception of a specific article, freely promoting the expression of their feelings through the artistic activity. Therefore, we will be very grateful to all OMEP Presidents to promote the project among the educators in their countries and ask them to encourage children to participate.

**Project description:** Children from all countries will work on artwork. As it is mentioned above, the main aim of this project is to give children from all countries the opportunity to show their perception of their rights through artistic expression with a variety of ways, approaches and materials. Furthermore, to give to us, all OMEP members, the opportunity on the one hand to observe the reaction of the children in order to understand their needs and on the other hand to illustrate to different institutions/organisations the importance of the application of children's rights in all countries: in everyday life, social, family, school and cultural environment.

**Methodology:** Children can express themselves freely on what they understand, feel and think about the specific article of the Rights of the Child. Children can create a story, a picture or a poster based on children's rights or can prepare a visual presentation or a video. Every OMEP country committee can choose between two or three articles and give the opportunity to children to decide which one they would like to approach artistically. It is essential for each country to decide which articles of Children's rights are more important in their country.

**Artistic materials:** All artistic materials are accepted such as: acrylics, colour pencils, aquarelles, watercolours, oil pastels, collage, (clothes, paper, newspaper and other light materials thick materials are excluded for transportation problems) mixed techniques materials thick materials are excluded for transportation problems) mixed techniques, visual presentations etc. Children are also allowed to write text on their work.

The art works must be done on heavy paper (preferably on aquarelle paper) on size A3 that is 42 cm x 30 cm. The size can be smaller but not bigger. This is very important for the exhibition.

## **THE PROCESS**

### **Phase one:**

Presidents disseminate the information and encourage educators /children to participate. National project leaders are appointed. Each OMEP national committee collect the artwork in digital form.

### **Phase two:**

Each OMEP committee can select 10-15 artworks. It is important to have a sample of art works from different ages. Therefore, we would like to receive the artworks divided in two age groups: one until 6 years old and the second from 6–8 years old.

Each artwork must include the name of the child, the age, the name of the school optionally, the country and the title on the backside of the work.

It is also very important to have information about the article that children have worked on and maybe some of their own words.

The selected artworks shall be sent to the World Project **by the latest 18 May 2020**, via email to [vassiliadou@omep.com.cy](mailto:vassiliadou@omep.com.cy)

### **FINAL PHASE:**

The artworks will be presented in multiple ways;

- As a virtual exhibition during the 72 OMEP World Assembly in Athens in July 2020, where the Art project leader Maria Vassiliadou will present the children's art virtually.
- This virtual exhibition will also be available on the OMEP Cyprus webpage where all OMEP countries can have access.
- At a special exhibition with children's original artworks which is going to take place in Cyprus in November 2020 with a special forum about Children's Rights where people from different important environments such as Universities, Ministries, NGO will be invited.

To participate in this exhibition, national presidents choose 1-2 pieces of art and **bring the originals to Athens in July 2020.**

- The final aim of this project is to create an illustrated book with the children's works and make a story out of it. The final book's form will depend on the financial support that we will have from sponsors.

We are looking forward to receiving artworks from the children in your country! For further information, please, do not hesitate to contact the World project leader at [pre.vm@frederick.ac.cy](mailto:pre.vm@frederick.ac.cy)

Warm regards,

Dr *Maria Vassiliadou* President of the Cyprus OMEP Committee  
Associate Professor of Artistic Education Frederick University, Nicosia CYPRUS

**Project creator and co-ordinator:** Dr. Maria Vassiliadou

**Curator of the exhibition in Cyprus:** Dr. Maria Vassiliadou

**Project realisation:** OMEP Cyprus

**Participant countries:** All countries members of World OMEP are welcome to participate.

**OMEP Executive Committee representant:** Ingrid Engdahl, VP for OMEP in Europe

**This invitation is very soon available in English, French and Spanish on the OMEP world website [www.worldomep.org](http://www.worldomep.org)**



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# Invitation to the National Committees of OMEP

The OMEP World Assembly in Panama in July 2019 decided to launch a new part of the OMEP ESD project within Early Childhood Education: We ask all National Committees to consider signing up for the

## The OMEP ESD rating scale project

Early Childhood Education for Sustainability and Global Citizen Education, Second edition.

This is what you need to do:

- 1) Read through the attached documents
  - a) Introduction to the OMEP ESD rating scale
  - b) The OMEP ESD Rating scale (2019, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition)
  - c) The OMEP ESD Rating scale Rubrics.
- 2) Decide if you want to sign up for this project
- 3) Appoint two project leaders and send in the attached form. The project leaders will get monthly information from the OMEP World project leaders around the project.
- 4) If necessary, arrange for translation of these documents to the language(s) used in your country
- 5) Invite preschools/childcare settings to join the project
- 6) Start planning for how to organise introductions about the project

Confirm your participation by sending in the attached form, preferably **before December 15, 2019**.

Ingrid Engdahl, VP for OMEP Europe,

Milada Rabušicová, Czech Republic, Adrijana Višnjić-Jevtić, Croatia, and Natalya Ryzhova, Russia

**ALL documents – The OMEP ESD Rating scale, Introduction to the scale and how to use the scale, Rating scale rubrics and this Invitation are available in English, French and Spanish on the OMEP world website [www.worldomep.org](http://www.worldomep.org)**

**Also, there are two recent Webinars about the OMEP World project for ESD:**

**October 15, 2019** Ingrid Engdahl introduces the OMEP ESD Rating

**July 22, 2019** Ingrid Pramling Samuelsson talked about Call to action: Sustainability as the centrepiece of high quality preschool



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## **The OMEP ESD rating scale project**

The National Committee of OMEP in \_\_\_\_\_

hereby declares that we are willing to participate in the OMEP ESD rating scale project.

National Project leaders will be:

..... and .....

Name

Name

.....@.....and.....@.....

e-mail address

e-mail address

.....and.....

City/Region

City/region

2019-\_\_-\_\_ (date)

.....  
National president Name and Signature

**E-mail this form to Ingrid Engdahl [ingridengdahl@gmail.com](mailto:ingridengdahl@gmail.com) before 15 December 2019**



!

# WELCOME to Athens 12-17 July 2020

## Early Childhood Education in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: New perspectives and new challenges



*The website for OMEP Athens 2020 is now open!  
[www.omep2020.org](http://www.omep2020.org) – Please, visit and sign up*

In November, I had the pleasure to visit Athens and Effrosyni Katsikonouri and Sofia Saiti from OMEP Greece. Together, we had a productive meeting with the conference coordinators at AFEA. We visited the Conference venues. Royal Olympic Hotel and AMC Metropolitan College, and went through practical things around Registration form, Abstract submitting form, Visits to Kindergartens and the Conference programme.



Everything is really fine and very promising, although some of the houses in Athens close to where we will be are looking quite old (!). The conference venue is on the slopes of Akropoli, and the views are breath-taking. And do I need to mention the quality of the food?



**72nd OMEP  
World Assembly  
and Conference**



«Early Childhood  
Education in  
the 21<sup>st</sup> century:  
new perspectives  
and dilemmas»



13 - 17/7/2020  
ATHENS, GREECE  
Venue Royal Olympic

## Important dates

- 15 January** Abstract submission ends  
**20 March** Notification about abstracts  
**30 April** Early Bird ends  
**10 July** Regular fee ends  
**12 July** European meeting (2-6 pm)  
**13-14 July** World Assembly  
**15 July** Kindergarten visits (morning)  
**15-17 July** OMEP World Conference

## Key themes:

There are 4 key-themes and 28 strands to choose from if you want to present something in Athens.

- New perspectives and dilemmas in ECEC-Theory and Practice
- New perspectives and dilemmas in ECEC-Policy and Administration
- Inclusion, equity and equality in ECEC
- Teaching, learning and didactics in ECEC

## Early Bird registration

What are you waiting for? Sign up and pay before April 30, and you get the best price.

There are many hotels to choose from marked on the website, and there are also many AIRB&B providers in the neighbourhood.

**What's up in Europe? Send your contribution to the next newsletter to [ingridengdahl@gmail.com](mailto:ingridengdahl@gmail.com)**

**¿Qué pasa en Europa? Envíe su contribución al próximo boletín a [ingridengdahl@gmail.com](mailto:ingridengdahl@gmail.com)**

**Qu'est-ce qui se passe en Europe? Envoyez votre contribution au prochain bulletin à [ingridengdahl@gmail.com](mailto:ingridengdahl@gmail.com)**

*The website for OMEP Athens 2020 is now open!*  
**[www.omep2020.org](http://www.omep2020.org) – Please, visit and sign up**

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