

Letter from Vice President of OMEP for European Region

Dear OMEP members, dear friends,

we have been living in turbulent times for the last decades. The changes that took place were focused on progress and prosperity. We learned, broadened our horizons and connected more than ever. The last two years have become more turbulent and difficult, especially for the youngest, those to whom we adults should guarantee and ensure that their rights are respected. OMEP members remained connected despite not meeting in person. Commitment to work to ensure the well-being of children has resulted in virtual gatherings, joint projects and publications. After three years, the time for us to finally meet in person has come - at the OMEP World Assembly and Conference to be held in the European Region - in Athens. OMEP Greece National Committee has been working hard to keep the first post-pandemic OMEP World Assembly in Conference onsite. I believe that you will support your colleagues from OMEP Greece with your arrival to Athens. Until we meet there, I am sure that you will continue to work on the core values of OMEP - ensuring peace and well-being for all children, regardless of their background.

I warmly welcome you until the next meeting!

Adrijana Višnjić-Jevtić
Vice president of OMEP for European Region

WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE:

- Letter from Vice president of OMEP for European Region
- News from National Committees (Czech, Turkey, Greece, Israel, France)
- Important dates
- Important links

OMEP Czech Republic

Congratulations to newly elected national president of OMEP Czech Republic Mrs Dana Moravcova.

OMEP Czech Republic National Committee is trying to restart organization after coronavirus.

They are working on various activities:

- annual meeting
- a competition declared by the Czech OMEP with the topic Rating Scales in ESD
- Erasmus plus project ESD for ECE
- taking action to help Ukraine



OMEP Turkey

In addition to the many activities that OMEP Turkey National Committee carried out, we single out those aimed at strengthening teachers.

OMEP Turkey is working on the project “Strengthening Preschool Teachers Working in Rural Areas in Turkey” and which they carry out in collaboration with Village Schools Change Network - KODA.

They started the “Development and Implementation of Early Childhood Education Program for Teachers Working in Rural Areas”.

OMEP Turkey published two issues of the Journal of Early Childhood Studies In 2021, with a total of 25 articles.

The journal web page can be accessed at this link:
<https://journalofomepturkey.org/>



Erken Çocukluk Çalışmaları Dergisi *Journal of Early Childhood Studies*

Türkiye Okul Öncesi Eğitimi Geliştirme Derneği tarafından yayınlanmaktadır
Published by Association for the Development of Early Childhood Education in Turkey

ISSN: 2564-7601

The Student Committee of the Association for the Development of Early Childhood Education in Turkey has been restructured after the pandemic to contribute to the field by bringing pre-service preschool teachers together and supporting their personal and professional development. Student Committee Teams were formed in 19 different universities with Early Childhood Education departments. The mentoring process was initiated by supporting each team to contact a pre-school teacher working in their city. The mentoring process was integrated with the “Experience Network” project, which aims to work with children in disadvantaged groups. Within the scope of the project, The Association for the Development of Early Childhood Education - Teacher Community have been taken under the roof of OMEP Turkey.

A series of interviews were held in the digital environment called "Teacher's Room", which is a voluntary work that started with Teacher Community.

OMEP Greece

In Greece there is final preparations for the 74th OMEP World Assembly and Conference and they are also preparing the next Panhellenic Conference (13th) which will be held in Thessaloniki on May 2023.

Their Regional councils have already organized various webinars and workshops on zoom for Kindergarten teachers, in collaboration with University Departments of Early Childhood Education in Greece and other agents. They had great success with more than 500 hundred participants each one from all over Greece. The last webinar was on the new Greek Kindergarten Curriculum.

OMEP Greece just published on the proceedings of the previous Panhellenic conference (12th) so you may find it on link <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Aqj9meE71m4kkVNhBWHAMDSMkXHrpqBg/view>



OMEP Israel has been operating during the past year on a few channels:



1. **THE POLITICAL CHANNEL:** they are working to change policy at the national level for the quality of education for young children (from birth to three). During the past year, they were involved in the actions that preceded the adoption of a law recognizing the responsibility of the Ministry of Education for all educational frameworks in which children from birth are educated.

The law also requires these education settings to have a license. This is a significant move because, until now, these young children have been under the responsibility of the Ministry of Welfare, the Ministry of Health, and private associations without a license or supervision.

2. **THE MUNICIPAL CHANNEL:** they started working with the mayors and heads of the local authorities, convincing them to take responsibility for all the children in their municipality from birth.

3. **THE PROFESSIONAL CHANNEL:** there is a severe shortage of teaching staff (teachers, preschool teachers, and professional caregivers). To help deal with this, OMEP Israel introduced a new law that refers to discharged soldiers. They work with government for ensuring money for working with babies and toddlers for a limited time and they are planning to offer training for new professionals in the field, free of charge.

4. **THE INTERNATIONAL CHANNEL:** they are aware of the impact of the war in Ukraine on children so they make the effort to help refugees in Israel. They contacted policymakers asking them to receive the refugees without referring to their religious or family identity. OMEP Israel try to find suitable day care centres for young children to help them live their life in Israel.

OMEP France

OMEP France was active as well. They organised webinar on 12 April 2022 on the topic "Yes to peace! No to war!".

Four women who are passionate about the well-being of children and their families, the defence of their rights, education for peace and justice from the earliest age, and the traumas linked to conflict have shared their experience in the field, the role played by mothers in building peace, and what is essential for the harmonious development of a small child in a period of war: care, well-being, the way they look at things, and the management of their emotions.

National Committee organises a fundraising event until 15 June 2022, in support of OMEP Ukraine.

OUI À LA PAIX ! NON À LA GUERRE !

Webinaire (En français) suite à l'appel de l'OMEP

mardi 12 avril 2022 / 17h30-19h



> Pauline AMBROGI, Maryse METRA,
> Michèle OLIVAIN et Lisa SILVESTRE

The great news is that OMEP France established partnership and set up a partnership agreement with the University of Aix Marseille.

Both of them participate in the Erasmus OMEP Europe project "ESD for ECCE" and will host a 2-day steering group meeting and first multiplier event which will take place in October, in the form of a day of conferences associated with round-table discussions and workshops in hybrid format.

IMPORTANT DATES

OMEP European Web caffè 16th of May, 17:00 CEST

IMPORTANT LINKS

<https://omepworld.org/where-we-work-europe/>