



Organisation Mondiale pour l'Éducation Préscolaire
Organización Mundial para la Educación Preescolar
World Organisation for Early Childhood Education
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These are extraordinary times!

The Corona virus has put the whole world on alert. People in all regions are in the hands of experts and politicians. Heads of states are making rapid decisions, decisions that influence the everyday life for all inhabitants. Many of these people are children, and now is the time to stand up for a child oriented perspective. It is time to talk with children, respecting them by addressing them seriously. It is time to share their thoughts, questions and ideas .

From previous experiences of natural disasters, pandemics, accidents or attacks, we know that most adults are occupied in their own minds, with their own questions. Some think that we shall not worry children by talking about what is happening. As an early childhood educator, I suggest another way of

action. Invite children to talks, starting with open questions like: *Have you heard something about a virus? Do you know anything about a new disease?* You will be invited to the children's world, and probably get amazed by the extent of their concern, worries and questions. Children here news, on radio, television, computers, they see pictures and film sequences, and they here family members talk, also over the phone. By inviting children to speak, you give them the opportunity to articulate or show their thoughts. Together, children and adults, may meet and share. Children share the same world as we adults do, and right now, almost everybody talks about Corona and Covid 19.

With a respectful and listening approach, we can talk with children about these things, without stress. The starting point must be children's perspectives and what they choose to talk about and share. This is something we owe children and I encourage you to participate.

I am certain that we will work together, facing the pandemic and united in our OMEP task for the children of the world.

Ingrid Engdahl

IMPORTANT NEWS about the omep world assembly and conference



The logo for the 72nd OMEP World Assembly and Conference features a central graphic of hands holding a globe, surrounded by stylized figures of children. Text elements include the OMEP logo and name, the event title, a quote about early childhood education, the dates and location (Athens, Greece), and the venue (Venue Royal Olympic).

«Early Childhood Education in the 21st century: new perspectives and dilemmas»

OMEP Organisation Mondiale pour l'Éducation Préscolaire

72nd OMEP World Assembly and Conference

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

Please, for more and updated information, visit the conference website www.omep2020.org

Dear OMEP Members of the National Committees of OMEP and dear participants

On March 19th., the Executive Committee (EXCO) of OMEP had a meeting and discussed how to handle the upcoming OMEP World Assembly and World Conference in Athens, Greece, in July 2020.

We have started a process with OMEP Greece and AFEA (their Conference organizers), while we collect information from different parts of the world.

We are responsible for taking care of all the OMEP members and other participants, especially in these times, when we are going through a pandemic caused by the COVID 19.

We are evaluating different alternatives such as postponing the conference for some months or one year. The Executive Committee will have a new meeting based on relevant information taken from the National Committees, the government's regulations and WHO's reports and recommendations, to decide how to proceed.

During the first week of April we will communicate the EXCO's decision.

Thank you for your understanding and support and keep safe.

Cordially.

Mercedes Mayol Lassalle, OMEP World President

Ingrid Engdahl, VP for OMEP in Europe

Effrosyni Katsikonouri, President OMEP Greece

This decision was based on the following considerations:

- It is a great responsibility to invite to an international conference during a pandemic
- OMEP should not ask members and other interested delegates to risk their health
- OMEP can't prolong a 3-5 days conference with additional weeks (quarantine period)
- OMEP do not want to be responsible for economic loss due to not refundable air tickets or hotel bookings (we don't know today how this will end)
- We can't justify Athens as a World Assembly and World Conference, if many National Committees and additional delegates can't participate

Right now, I am also busy with the ongoing abstract review process is ongoing, and we plan to send out information about acceptance/denial at the end of March. These preparations will be of importance for the postponed world conference.



OMEP Poland invited to an international conference on January 27 in Warsaw, on the rights of the child. Present were also five members from OMEP Ukraine, with president Inessa Filippova, see special report. Additionally, I appreciated the visit to POLIN museum with Anna Wróbel, the Polish president.



On January 28, I talked at the international academic seminar *Selected Aspects of Education for Sustainable Development*, at the **University Adam Mickiewicz in Poznan**. My host Dr. Renata Michalak also took me to study visits to a Kindergarten where I met the president of the Poznan chapter of OMEP.



Mini tour in Northern Europe in January 2020

My next stop was **Berlin**, where I met with OMEP representatives within the AGJ (Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Kinder- und Jugendhilfe), Eva Lotta, Sabine and Francesca. OMEP is part of this larger foundation, and we discussed different ways to perform membership in OMEP and how to finance the participation in meetings and the membership fee. AGJ will invite OMEP to participate in a larger Congress in Berlin in May 2021.



January 30-31, I visited **OMEP Belgium** and Karl de Grote College in Antwerpen. We talked about the process of becoming a OMEP National Committee and I also visited the Early Childhood Education programme and gave a talk about the pedagogy behind the OMEP World ESD project.

My final stop was a meeting with Stig and Renée from **OMEP Denmark**, where we discussed problems in recruiting members and possible cooperation between the Nordic OMEP committees.



Report from OMEP Ukraine

OMEP of Ukraine focuses its activities on the harmonious development of the child, preparing her for real life in an intercultural environment.

One of the **basic principles of the New Ukrainian School** is the idea of **continuity of education**. This means that the process of education, training and formation of personality begins immediately from birth and lasts for life. At the same time, the state recognizes that the basic stages of physical, mental and social formation of a child's personality are infant age (up to one year), early age (1-3 years), preschool age (3-6 / 7 years).

That is why pre-school education is an **indispensable primary component** of the continuing education system in Ukraine. The state recognizes the priority of pre-school education and provides the conditions for its acquisition.

Preschool education is a holistic process aimed at:

- **ensuring the full development of the child of preschool age** in accordance with its inclinations, abilities, individual, mental and physical characteristics, cultural needs;
- **formation of moral norms** in a child of preschool age, gaining her life social experience.

PRINCIPLES OF PRESCHOOL EDUCATION

- accessibility for each citizen of the educational services provided by the preschool education system;
- equality of conditions for realization of the inclinations, abilities, gifts, versatile development of each child;
- unity of development, education and rehabilitation of children;
- unity of educational influences of family and institution of preschool education;
- continuity and perspectives between pre-primary and primary general education;
- the secular nature of pre-school education in state and communal pre-school institutions;
- a personality-oriented approach to the development of the child's personality;
- democratization and humanization of the pedagogical process;
- correspondence of content, level and volume of preschool education to the peculiarities of development and state of health of the child of preschool age;

Citizens of Ukraine, as well as foreigners and stateless persons who are legally resident in Ukraine, have equal rights to obtain affordable and free preschool education and upbringing in the family. This right is granted to all children regardless of race, color, political, religious or other beliefs, gender, ethnic or social background, property status, place of residence, language or other characteristics. Responsibility for pre-school education for children lies with their parents, the people who replace them, and the educational institutions where the children are kept.

At the same time, children may receive pre-school education at the request of their parents or their substitute:

- in pre-school education institutions regardless of subordination, types and ownership;
- in the structural units of legal entities of private and public law, including educational institutions; in the family - according to the family (home) form of pre-school education;
- with the help of natural persons having pedagogical education and / or professional qualification of a pedagogical worker carrying out independent professional activity, or with the help of natural persons-entrepreneurs whose main activity is educational activity.

Pre-school education in pre-school institutions, regardless of subordination, types and form of ownership, should ensure that the requirements of the **Basic component of pre-school education are fulfilled**.

TYPES OF PRESCHOOL EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

There are different types of pre-school institutions in Ukraine that can meet the individual needs of each child and the specific requirements of parents. These include children with special needs and the right of parents to choose a special or inclusive pre-school.

Nurseries (1-3 years old) providing childcare as well as their development and upbringing in accordance with the requirements of the Basic component of pre-school education.

Kindergarten (age 1-6 (7) years) providing childcare, development, upbringing and training in accordance with the requirements of the Basic component of pre-school education.

Kindergarten (age 1-6 (7) years), where the development, upbringing and education of children are provided in accordance with the requirements of the Basic component of preschool education.

Nursery-compensatory type for children with special educational needs (age - 2-7 (8) years); such establishments are divided into special and sanatorium.

Child's home (age 0-3 (or 4 for sick children) years) is a pre-school health education institution for orphan and orphaned children and children with physical and / or physical intellectual disabilities.

An orphanage providing development, upbringing, education and social adaptation for orphans and children deprived of parental, preschool and school age, who are in a family relationship and are supported by the state.

Family-type day nursery (age 2 months-6 (7) years) for children who are in a family relationship and where their care, development, upbringing and education are provided in accordance with the requirements of the Basic Preschool Education component.

Combined-type nursery (ages 1-6 (7.8) years), which may include general development groups, offset-type, inclusive, family, leisure, preschool-based, their mental, psychological, physical development.

Child Development Center, which provides physical, mental and psychological development, correction of psychological and physical development, improvement of children attending other educational institutions or homeschooling.

According to May 2017, in Ukraine, about 55% of preschool children attended preschools of different types. In absolute numbers, the number of such children was about 1 million 300 thousand people.

The number of pre-school education institutions of all types, ownership and subordination amounted to approximately 14.9 thousand in May 2017. The largest number of pre-school education institutions (974 units) is in Dnipropetrovsk region; it is also the leader in the number of children attending (115,343 people).

In 2019 OMEP of Ukraine marked the 10th anniversary of the organization and 30th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. We see new opportunities in everything, and this broadens our mindset and refreshes our thinking, making it flexible and creative.

We have identified our main priorities:

- respect and protect the rights of the child;
- to prepare the child for life and to live within real life situations;
- to care for the health of the child and to promote its harmonious development in accordance with individual characteristics and capabilities;
- to increase the professional competence of directors, psychologists, teachers.

OMEP of Ukraine organizes its activities for participation in international projects.

We understand that decent citizens of the country need to be brought up from early childhood in close collaboration with their parents. And these are:

School of tolerance for parents,

Fröbel gifts in kindergarten,

WORKSHOP FOR PEACE,

Family picnics and competitions: "I want to live in a quality world", "Baby Care" and "The future of children without genetically modified products".

The continuity between preschool and school education is important to us. OMEP explores in a project the processes of protection and respect for the rights of the child every 2 years. In 2019 two hundred children aged 5 years were interviewed. The children described the following rights and drew them:

- the right to rest - 40%
- right to education, training and play - 35%
- the right to treatment - 30%
- right to sweets - 30%
- right to attend kindergarten - 25%
- the right to an animal - 20%
- right for mom and dad - 10%
- right to a friend - 5%
- right to life - 2%
- right to own house - 1%.

Today, we are developing an understanding of the rights of the child in the country.

We have many rights in common with the citizens of Europe. Most importantly, we are united by the energy of working together for the benefit of our children.

Dr Inessa Filippova (President of OMEP Ukraine)

Important dates during Spring 2020

March 31 Annual report for 2019- National President is responsible to send in report using the on line form. **Only one week to go!**

May 18 Last day to send in children's drawings or other pieces of art in the project **Colour Your Rights** . Send them as email attachments to the project leader Dr Maria Vassiliadouat vassiliadoum@omep.com.cy For further information, please, contact Maria at pre.vm@frederick.ac.cy

May 31 Last date to send in reports on the OMEP World project ESD Rating Scale project to me at vpeurope@worldomep.org. More information is about to be sent out to the national project leaders.

The OMEP ESD Rating scale project:

At this moment, there are 19 participating countries: Australia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Chile, Croatia, Czech Republic, El Salvador, Japan, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Russia, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom and Uruguay.

What's up in Europe? Send your contribution to the next newsletter to vpeurope@worldomep.org

¿Qué pasa en Europa? Envíe su contribución al próximo boletín a vpeurope@worldomep.org

Qu'est-ce qui se passe en Europe? Envoyez votre contribution au prochain bulletin à vpeurope@worldomep.org

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