

OCTOBER, 2024

OMEP EUROPE NEWSLETTER

REPORT FROM 76TH OMEP WORLD ASSEMBLY AND CONFERENCE

76th OMEP World Assembly and Conference was held in Bangkok, Thailand.

**Right from the
Start
for ECCE – Step
beyond All
together
15-19 July 2024**

**The theme for OMEP's world conference was about children's right to preschool and good upbringing conditions, anchored in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
In this newsletter you may find what some of the speakers highlighted.**

PHRA ANIL SAKYA

Assistant Secretary to His Holiness the Supreme Patriarch of Thailand, emphasized the importance of planting the seeds of education from an early age, especially in a time dominated by narrow economic thinking. However, education must also be contemporary.



MERCEDES MAYOL LASSALLE

The meanings of transformative ECCE: The right to inclusion, equity, and quality was highlighted by the **OMEP world president Mercedes Mayol Lassalle**. Preschool education is a catalyst for opportunities, where children's knowledge, abilities, creativity and citizenship can be developed and the humane can be strengthened. OMEP works for a culture that recognizes the importance of the early years, with children's well-being and holistic development in focus. Quality is crucial



BETZABÉ BUTRON



Pediatrician Betzabé Butron from the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and WHO pleaded for the importance of education and health working together, something we recognize from OMEP Sweden's work with children's health. Even though this is UN/WHO/Unicef/UNESCO policy, progress towards real cooperation is slow, says Betzabé. Cooperation between these professional groups increases both children's chances and can promote more children's health and well-being. She linked to the WASH work (Water, Sanitation and Health) and described unequal conditions for girls and boys, between city and rural. Starting locally with collaboration between education and health, building bridges, and involving the parents can make a big difference for the children. And it is necessary if we are to bring about improvements for the youngest children.

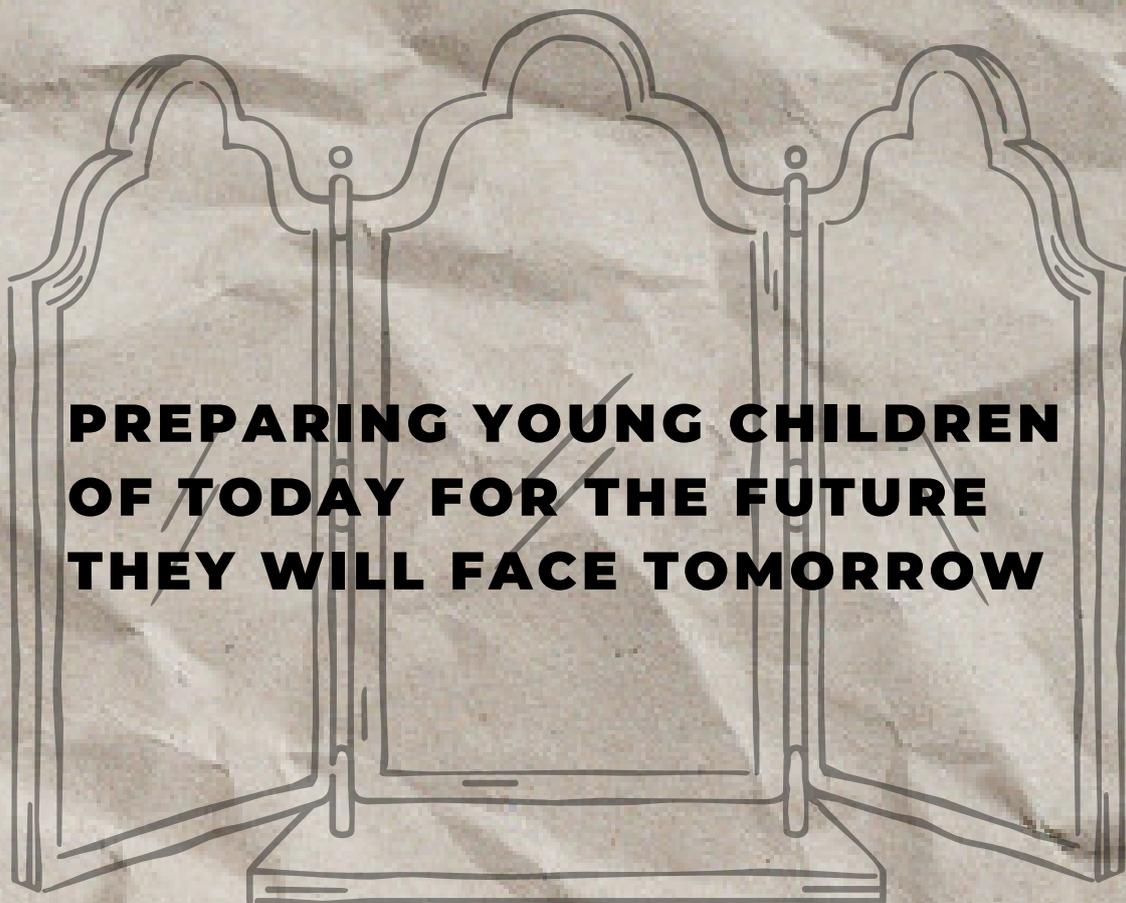
MATHIAS URBAN

Mathias Urban, University of Dublin, states that the youngest children are the ones being most affected by the multiple crises in the world. But preschool and school seem to be stuck in the ideologies and visions of the 20th century. What does society, community, development and learning mean today? Together, we must rethink and re-establish the pre-school's mission in our time and act for fair and equal changes in society.



SHELDON SHAEFFER

Sheldon Shaeffer, senior researcher at ARNEC-Asia Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood, rounded off with a rhetorical talk. He described different scenarios with preschool children about the pandemic, biological extinction, displacement, disasters and conflicts. Then the questions were repeated: Do you recognize this? What have you done about it? What are you doing now? The responsibility suddenly came a little closer to all of us in the hall.



Schaeffer believes that the ongoing poly crisis will most certainly make the future that today's children will face very different from the world they, and we, currently live in. It is important that preschool principals and preschool teachers understand and embrace this difference and prepare the children with knowledge and abilities. It is not only about mitigating the effects of today's crises, but almost as much about finding ways to survive and to a good life now and in the future.



CONGRATULATIONS to the OMEP ESD Award Winners of 2024! During the World Conference, four of the winning teams presented their projects. The Diplomas were handed over by European OMEP President Adrijana Višnjić-Jevtić and Ingrid Engdahl:

Sustainable daycare, Luciana Deschênes, Marie-Soleil Côté and Alicia Maltais, Canada

A world of cardboard, Catalina Ignacia Sánchez Uribe, Chile

Where does the river get polluted? Children's continuous learning from the nature around them”, Tomoe Akiyama and Lemi Komai, Japan

Earth Loving Clothes, Shim Jung-sun, Heo Jee-hye, Seo Jee-hye and Lee Jeong-ha, Korea

Clothes and footwear exchange during the school year 2023/24, Melita Pušnik, Slovenia

The Early Childhood Education for Sustainable Citizenship (ECESC) Award (2022-24), John Siraj Blachford, United Kingdom





“Sustainability from the Start”

**Awarded BEST
PRACTICE by EU**



The course is up and running, with more than 3 300 downloads in 54 countries.

The course was developed with the support of EU funds in collaboration with Kristianstad University, OMEP in France, Ireland, Croatia, Sweden and the Czech Republic, as well as edChild and was launched in April 2024.

In September we also launched the course in Spanish. Now there are six languages, Croatian, Czech, English, French, Spanish and Swedish. You will get the course in the operating language of your mobile phone, or in English.

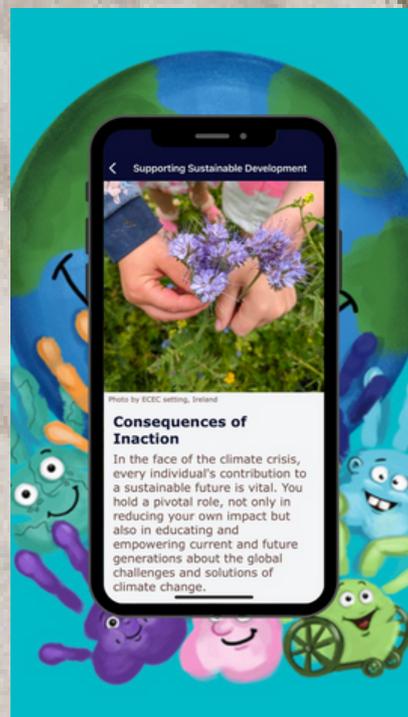
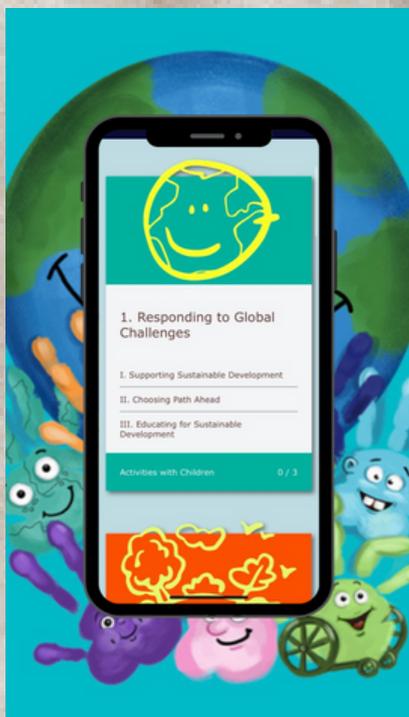
Just download the App ECE Academy and you get the course for free, thanks to EU funding (AppStore/Google Play)

More info via [edChild](#) and [Facebook](#)



The EU Agency just sent us the final confirmation of the project. We were awarded 87 out of 100 points, which gave us the honour of being selected as a BEST PRACTICE Project. Here is a part of the comments:

- *“This project had ambitious and important intentions which the consortium fulfilled well. Almost everything that was promised to be done in the original application has been achieved.*
- *The produced app and its contents are very user friendly, show high didactic quality and can make a change for teachers and teacher’s training students if being used in their context. There are also proof of the material being used in daily education in pre-primary schools, which is excellent.*
- *This project really proves that Erasmus+ can make a change in education both at school level and in higher education. Hopefully this project will be maintained for some more years and be further developed by the consortium.*
- *Implementations seem to have been the case at some universities in ESD and hopefully this can be further exploited and disseminated.*
- *This project is recommended for best practice.”*



14-18 JULY



OMEPCBOLOGNA

Arts and Culture in Early Childhood Education:
Play, Expression, Participation



LOCATION

77th OMEP World Assembly and Conference
will be held in BOLOGNA, ITALY



REGISTRATION

Registrations will be open on November 1, 2024
Early-bird registration until April 15, 2025

BOL  **GNA**

OMEPC2025 77th World Assembly and Conference

**INCLUSIONS:**

- Conference attendance Wednesday 16 to Friday 18 July 2025
- Lunch and snack breaks on Thursday 17 and Friday 18 July 2025

**OPTIONAL EXTRAS:**

- Visit to child care centers and preschool programs on July 16 and 19, 2025
- International night Gala dinner on July 17, 2025

**PRICING:**

Full cost details will be released on
November 1, 2025
All pricing will be in dollars

**CALL FOR PAPERS:**

Abstract submission will be open on November 1, 2024
Deadline for submission on February 28, 2025



Read the OMEP Journals and feel free to submit a contribution

As a member of OMEP, you have access to the journal International Journal of Early Childhood (IJEC) free of charge.

Click on the picture next to this and register!

OMEP also has its own web magazine [OMEP – Theory into Practice TIP](#). Follow the link to the OMEP World website.



Text: Ingrid Engdahl

Photos: Private and from the Conference website.

Newsletter: Sarah Bacinger

