

OMEP Francophone Commission

Activity Report 2025

for the OMEP World Assembly in July 2026

1. Mandate and strategic framework

The World Assembly in Bangkok established the OMEP Francophone Commission in July 2024.

Its objectives are directly in line with OMEP's strategy:

- Strengthen the impact of OMEP's political advocacy, particularly in low- and middle-income countries;
- Produce and share knowledge in French in order to better analyse national or regional situations and strengthen the capacity of stakeholders to design and implement actions tailored to their situations;
- Build closer relationships between, on the one hand, the committees of French-speaking countries where ECCE needs are greatest and, on the other hand, international organisations and technical and financial partners.

The integration of English into the work undertaken should enable the development of functional relationships with a majority of OMEP committees.

In 2025, the OMEP Francophone Commission (CF-OMEP) includes representatives from nine committees and preparatory committees in Africa (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Morocco, Senegal, Togo; Benin [CP], Ivory Coast [CP]), one from North America (Canada) and two from Europe (France, Belgium). A member of OMEP-Argentina participates in the work on an individual basis.

The executive committee is represented by Mercedes Mayol-Lassalle and coordination is provided by OMEP-France.

2. Activities carried out in 2025

Thanks to enhanced coordination between committees, 2025 saw the effective implementation of actions with a fairly wide audience, the creation of a visual identity and a microsite on omepworld.org, and the structuring of a strategic partnership with UNESCO.

2.1 Webinars and symposiums

OMEP webinars

Several webinars on mainly educational issues were held during the first half of the year: a committee was responsible for steering and implementing the webinar based on the themes defined at the coordination meeting, and the committees interested in contributing to it with a presentation. Resources in French from these webinars are available on the French-speaking commission's microsite (<https://omepworld.org/fr/travaux-et-evenements-2/>).

- *Education for sustainable development*: organised on 22 January 2025 by OMEP-Canada, with presentations by OMEP committees from Canada, France, Morocco and the DRC, as well as a

presentation on OMEP's work on ESD; this event was attended by 125 participants. The replay is available online.

- *Recognising linguistic diversity: a shared vision for inclusive early childhood education*: organised on 2 April by OMEP-Morocco, with presentations by a UNESCO programme specialist on languages and OMEP committees from Argentina, Canada, Morocco and the DRC. The presentations and a summary in French and English are available on the microsite.
- *The quality of ECCE in relation to children's rights*: organised on 14 May by OMEP-France, with presentations by the committees of Burkina Faso, Canada, France with Belgium and Luxembourg, and Morocco. The presentations and a summary in French and English are available on the microsite.

Webinar in partnership with UNESCO

In order to help strengthen local engagement with international partners for early childhood education and care, a webinar was organised in partnership with UNESCO's Education Policy Sector.

Two sessions on this topic were held, one in French on 19 March and the other in English on 17 June.

The event featured presentations by Section Chief Gwang-Chol Chang and Rokhaya Diawara, UNESCO Education Programme Specialist, Joa Keis from the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), as well as UNESCO programme specialists in Abidjan and Kinshasa and the President of OMEP.

140 people participated in the first of these webinars (available for replay, with the materials used and a summary in [French](#)¹), and around 120 people participated in the second webinar in English (see [concept note](#)).

Round table on education for sustainable development

OMEP-France regularly attends the congress of the *General Association of Nursery School Teachers*, which brings together several hundred participants every year at the beginning of July for conferences, workshops and discussions.

In 2025, at the Colmar conference held from 2 to 4 July on the theme "Today for tomorrow: from nursery school, the first steps towards education for sustainable development", the French-speaking commission had the opportunity to organise a round table discussion on the *ECE Academy* application, "Sustainable development from childhood") with the participation of OMEP France, OMEP-Morocco and OMEP-DRC (see documents and a [summary in French](#) on the commission's microsite).

Symposiums in French in Bologna

This knowledge sharing continued with the organisation of two symposiums in French (with slides also in English) in Bologna on two topics related to children's rights, play and expression. OMEP-Canada, OMEP-Morocco, OMEP-DRC, OMEP-Argentina and OMEP-France participated.

2.2. Sharing references

A space was created on the Francophone Commission's microsite to build a shared knowledge base on ECCE in order to better understand the issues facing each country. The aim is to bring together bibliographic resources in French from as many CF-OMEP countries as possible, which are easily accessible and limited in number so that they can be effectively consulted.

Twenty-five documents have been referenced.

The long-term goal is to better prepare webinars by disseminating useful resources to participants to help them better understand local contexts.

¹ See in particular: <https://www.omepfrance.fr/actualites/actualites-omep-mondiale>

2.3. Sharing experiences and supporting the design of national projects

The two study trips to France organised by OMEP-DRC in 2024, based on a comprehensive analysis of the EPPE situation in that country, identified levers for improving the local situation and proposed an action plan to rapidly double the number of trained educators and better channel the highly diverse range of preschool teacher qualifications offered by the private sector.

This project contributed to the organisation of a more in-depth analysis mission, which is currently being carried out thanks to funding from an international technical and financial partner.

3. Projects for 2026

Several projects were launched in the last quarter of 2025.

3.1. Webinars in partnership with UNESCO and symposiums

Firstly, given the success of the 2025 webinars, particularly in African countries where professionals can be quite isolated, and given that cooperation with UNESCO has been a positive experience, it was important to continue this practice.

For 2026, cooperation with UNESCO will be strengthened through a series of six webinars spread throughout the year. The format has been discussed so that each webinar can benefit from a general presentation by an expert appointed by UNESCO and contributions from various OMEP committees before engaging in a discussion with participants. The concept notes are produced in cooperation between OMEP and UNESCO.

The first in the series benefited from simultaneous machine translation into several languages. It focused on "the challenges and opportunities of digital technology and artificial intelligence in early childhood" on 26 January 2026. A second workshop will take place on 25 March, focusing on the issue of training for early childhood staff. The next one, in April, will focus on "EPPE for displaced populations." A follow-up workshop will then be held to allow participants to present their experiences related to the topics discussed before embarking on a new series.

Symposiums in French organised by OMEP-Canada for the commission are planned for the Poznan conference.

3.2. Sharing experiences

A study trip was organised in early February to Paris and its surroundings.

Despite difficulties in terms of funding (travel and accommodation being at the participants' expense), integrating the trip into the workloads of people who often have important responsibilities in their own countries, and obtaining visas, which is sometimes very limited, three delegations were able to take part in this study trip.

This activity was part of the activities of the preparatory committee in Côte d'Ivoire and will certainly lead to the establishment of a preparatory committee in Mali. For the DRC, the presence of two national MPs helped to consolidate their communication with a group of elected representatives who wish to pursue an ambitious national policy for ECCE.

3.3. Proposal to create an OMEP prize for young French-speaking researchers

On the initiative of several OMEP committees, the commission now wishes to launch a new initiative to promote academic work on early childhood conducted in French. The aim is to create a *prize for young researchers named after Gaston Mialaret*, a renowned French academic who promoted the field of educational sciences and was president of OMEP World from 1968 to 1974.

This prize is intended to reward high-quality Master's or doctoral theses that advance knowledge about early childhood education, as well as systems for promoting and supporting the implementation of education from an early age.

The four national committees of OMEP (Canada, France, Morocco, Democratic Republic of Congo), which are supported by academics from these countries, will contribute to the funding of this prize and are seeking sponsors to reward the successful candidate.

This first full year of operation of the OMEP Francophone Commission has proved fruitful. This body makes it possible to translate the main objectives of OMEP-Mondiale into a network that is as close as possible to the reality of the contexts of the countries involved, advancing ECCE both qualitatively and quantitatively.

We would like to extend our warmest thanks to the committees and individuals involved who, despite their already significant commitments, have made room for these projects.

On behalf of the OMEP Francophone Commission,
Gilles Pétreault.