

## *UNESCO World Conference on Early Childhood Care and Education*

The Second World Conference on Early Childhood Care and Education was held 14th - 16th November, 2022 in the capital of Uzbekistan, Tashkent. The conference brought together more than 2,000 participants from around 150 countries, including 70 ministers in charge of early childhood education and OMEP had an important role in it. The participants discussed the challenges and effective practices in early and preschool education and the imperative to undertake obligations so that by 2030 all girls and boys have access to quality early and preschool education.

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The conference was divided into four days – pre-conference day, solution day, policy day and commitment day. On all four days, activities were held in which various stakeholders took part, whose interests are early and preschool education. 16 side events organized by partners and 20 parallel sessions focused on four main topics were held: Inclusion, Quality and well-being, Workers in early and preschool education, Policy, Management and finance, and Program innovations. The main conference event identified the main challenges in early and preschool education - the lack of educators and the quality of early and preschool education itself.

OMEP had seven representatives – Mercedes Mayol Lassalle (world president), Ingrid Pramling Samuelsson (UNESCO chair), Adrijana Višnjić-Jevtić (VP for European region), Udomluck Kulapichitr (VP for Asia-Pacific region), Danielle Perruchon (UNESCO representative), Lysbeth Gouin (UNESCO representative) and Jessica Essary (UN representative). Members were actively engaged in the working part of the conference, as a presenters and moderators in parallel sessions and side events.



As a result of the conference, member states adopted a new document, the Tashkent Declaration, which seeks to contribute to the establishment of policies, incentives, regulatory frameworks and mechanisms to contribute to the expansion of inclusive access to high-quality early and preschool education for all children without exception.

The Tashkent Declaration determines the international agenda in the field of early and preschool education until 2030. It states the obligations of action for the transformation of upbringing and education in early childhood for all participating states. The following are the leading principles and strategies for changes in early and preschool education. The signatory states are obliged to ensure: Tashkent Declaration and Commitments to Action for Transforming Early Childhood Care and Education brings guiding principles and strategies for transformational ECCE:

1. Equitable and inclusive quality ECCE services for all
  - 1.1. Improve the relevance and quality of ECCE curricula and pedagogy:
  - 1.2. Ensure equitable and inclusive quality ECCE services for all children, prioritizing the most vulnerable:
  - 1.3. Protect and guarantee the right to ECCE in and after emergencies and protracted crises:
  - 1.4. Ensure all children receive nurturing care
  - 1.5. Establish relevant ECCE monitoring and evaluation systems
  - 1.6. Introduce and strengthen early childhood interventions that recognize the challenges and needs of all children and enable them to thrive and fulfil their potential
  - 1.7. Improve the transitions within ECCE and into primary education:
  - 1.8. Strengthen education for peace and sustainable development from early childhood
2. ECCE personnel
  - 2.1. Strengthen the education and training systems of ECCE personnel
  - 2.2. Enhance the attractiveness of the ECCE profession and provide opportunities for career advancement
  - 2.3. Regulate ECCE personnel in the non-state sector.
  - 2.4. Enhance support to parents, families and other caregivers
3. Innovation for advancing transformation
  - 3.1. Harness scientific evidence for innovating and transforming ECCE policies and practices
  - 3.2. Make access to digital technology equitable, inclusive, non-intrusive, secure and ethical, and ensure the protection of children's rights in the digital environment
  - 3.3. Diversify ECCE learning spaces, practices and provision
4. Politics, management and finance
5. Ensure a multi-sector and integrated government approach to the development, provision and coordination of early and preschool education policies
6. Protect and mobilize financial resources for early and preschool education
7. To improve the documentation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, practices and programs of early and preschool education
8. Improve policy and legal frameworks to ensure that the right to education includes early and preschool education.

The world conference on early and preschool education brought together different experts who had the opportunity to learn from each other and find common solutions in Tashkent. The Tashkent Declaration is a promise made by adults to children. The promise by which they undertook to ensure that by 2030, every girl and every boy has the right to quality and accessible early and preschool education.

# NEWS from National Committees

## Croatia

As part of the conference "Children's rights - power and (or) responsibility" held at the Faculty of Education of the University of Zagreb on November 26, 2022, an exhibition of picture books about children's rights was opened.

OMEP Croatia thanks the national committees of OMEP who participated in the collection of picture books, thus enabling a rich review of part of the literature on the subject.



## Turkey

2022 Early Childhood Education Talks, organized under the leadership of the Association for the Development of Early Childhood Education in Turkey /OMEP Turkey national committee in cooperation with the Calm School Association and Eskişehir Private Kindergartens Association, was held in Eskişehir on 20-21-22-23 June 2022 with the title of "Authentic Perspective to the Child: From Theory to Practice".

After the COVID-19 outbreak, academicians from various universities, teachers and many teacher candidates from all over Turkey attended the event called "purple beginnings", to which the head of the organizing committee, Prof. Dr. Serap Erdoğan, drew attention as the philosophy of the event. For this reason, the event theme of 2022 has been determined as the authentic perspective in the context of early childhood. 16 individual presentations and 6 special sessions were held within the scope of 2022 Early Childhood Education Talks, and a new perspective was brought to the symposium with its special session called "NGO Market". In addition, the participants had the chance to participate in 35 teacher workshops from the eyes of children. 92 speakers on the field of early childhood education took part in the event. The event turned into an education festival with the contribution of pre-school teacher candidates studying at the education faculties of 19 universities. It continued with the participation of 300 education volunteers from all over Turkey.

In the event, which continued with the same excitement for four days, the issues related to the child and the best interests of the child were particularly discussed. The importance of increasing the number of awareness studies about preschool education throughout the country in the recent years, providing children with an inquiring and thinking learning experience, turning the media into a qualified learning experience, incorporating nature into early learning more, addressing education policies within the framework of world early childhood education quality standards, engaging teacher candidates with more observations and practical experiences, and adopting an equal education approach that reaches all children in the context of values education was emphasized.

## Poland

Speaking about children's rights in Poland it is impossible not to mention the work and life of Janusz Korczak - a pediatrician and pedagogue, a writer and children's rights advocate whose thinking had a profound impact on the drafting of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

In connection to that, Polish Committee of OMEP worked out an educational project directed to the teachers and children in kindergartens entitled "Janusz Korczak as a guardian of children's rights".

The project aimed to promote the ideas and works of Janusz Korczak during the celebration of International Children's Rights Day on the 20th of November.

The project task consisted of several activities:

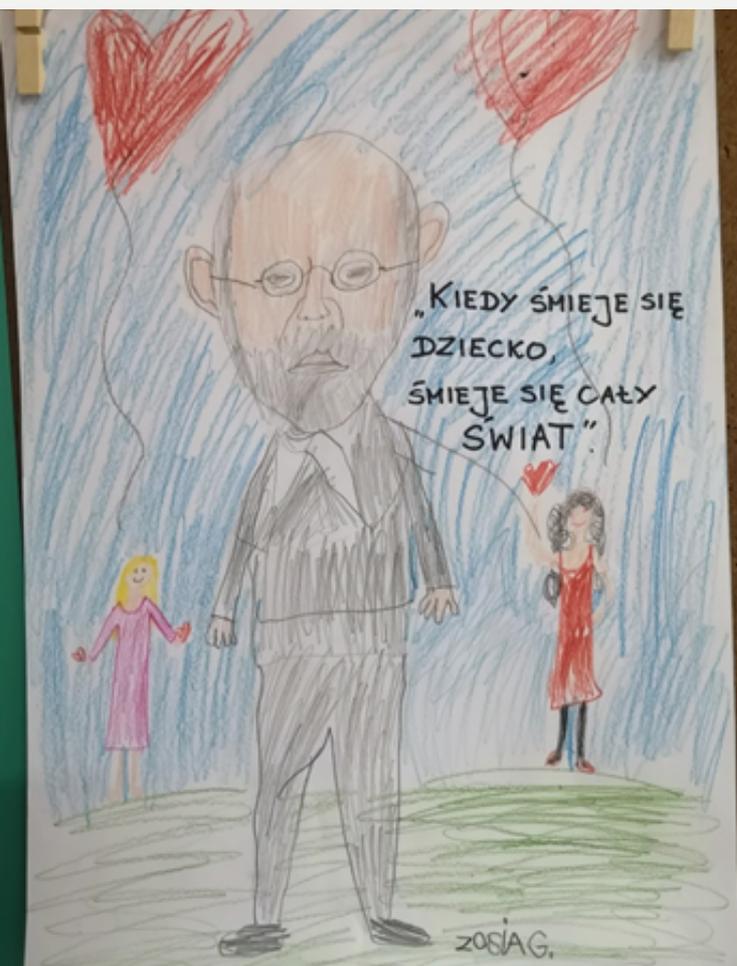
- Creation of a game promoting children's rights in reference to the pedagogy of Janusz Korczak and his work,
- Preparation of the game in the digital version,
- Arrangement of the space of children's classroom, corridor and/or cloakroom popularizing children's rights and pedagogical ideas of Janusz Korczak.

Through the project children learned that Janusz Korczak appreciated values such as: justice, respect, dignity, truth and love.

Thanks to this preschoolers learned about their rights:

- the right to love,
- the right to respect,
- the right to express one's thoughts and feelings,
- the right to learn through play,
- the right to failure and tears,
- the right to property,
- the right to be yourself,
- the right not to know,
- the right to make mistakes,
- the right to secrecy.

With great commitment, the children also made artworks that depicted their rights and the literary characters of Janusz Korczak: such as King Matt the First and Kaytek the Wizard.



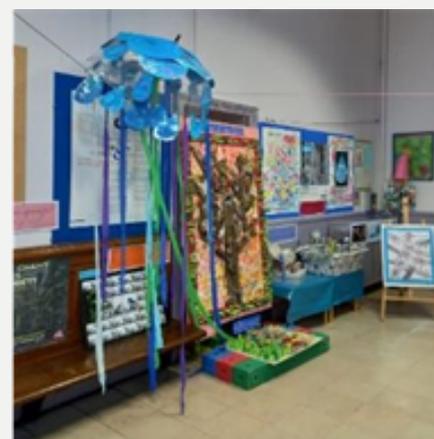
# France

33rd anniversary of the Rights of the Child in France, at the Reully kindergarten in Paris :  
Right to health ; Right to live in a healthy and sustainable environment.

A major exhibition entitled "I take care of my planet" brought together children and their teachers as well as parents around the work done by children aged 3 to 6 on the themes of ESD water / forest / waste and recycling, associated with visual arts productions.



## Preparation of the exhibition



## The exhibition





OMEP European Regional Assembly and Conference on topic “Quality and Equality in Early Childhood Education and Care” will be held from 3rd – 6th of May 2023 at Frederick University and Cyprus University of Technology (TEPAK), Limassol.

More information to come!

Sending you warm holiday greetings and best wishes for a bright New year.

Happy holidays!

OMEP wishes you peace, joy, and prosperity throughout the coming year. Thank you for your continued support.

*Happy Holidays!*