CALL FOR 2027 PROPOSALS

18TH ANNUAL EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (ESD) AWARD

Submission Deadline: 1st April 2027

All OMEP members are invited to submit their proposals for the 2027 ESD award.

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) ranks among World OMEP's highest priorities. Since 2010 we have sponsored a competition for outstanding projects focusing on sustainability education for young children, with emphasis on holistic and children's rights perspectives. The results of this work are impressive. Each year OMEP members from 5-34 countries have submitted projects. Over the years, these projects have included 244,359 children, 82,950 teachers, 93,784 families, more than 1,144 student teachers, and more than 6,809 others. We have reviewed nearly 1,300 applications and awarded projects in more than 30 countries.

2027 PROJECT EXPECTATIONS

For 2027 competition, we are looking for active, child- and play-centered sustainability education projects. Projects must focus on aspects of sustainability (society, economy and environment). **Children´s thoughts and ideas must play a leading role.** Projects must reflect children's rights perspectives, with preference for holistic approaches. The ideal project will contribute to innovation and transformation for participants and beyond.

Project requirements:

- Must emphasize children´s active and influential participation.
- Must explain why the project is important and innovative in this particular socio-cultural and educational context and current situation.
- Aims, activities, pedagogies, and outcomes must relate specifically to children and play.
- Must focus on one or more aspects of sustainability (society, economy, environment)
- Should name the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal(s) reflected in the project (https://sdgs.un.org/goals).
- Must be of high quality and inspirational for other early childhood educators.
- May include families, communities and organizations.

COMPETITION GUIDELINES FOR THE 2027 ESD AWARD

1. Projects must involve
   - work directly with children between birth and age 8, with preference for children younger than 6 years of age; **and/or**
   - work in pre-service or in-service teacher education.

2. Projects must be recent (started 2025 or thereafter) or ongoing.

3. Projects must have produced substantial results or be fully completed by June 2027.

4. Proposals must be submitted in English, French or Spanish.

5. Narratives must be clear and concise, describing the project´s activities and specifying how children have direct, influential participation.

6. Narratives about outcomes of the project must include supporting evidence (e.g., quotes from children and other participants, small photos of products/outcomes, data with information about how they were collected and analyzed).

7. To be considered, the 2027 ESD Award Proposal Form (Appendix 1) must be complete and include a signature by the author's current OMEP national president.

8. Proposals must be received via email to the persons named below by **April 1, 2027**. Proposals will not be accepted after the deadline.

9. Additional criteria for selection appear in the attached Project Quality Indicators (Appendix 2) that will be used for evaluation of the project.

The ESD Leadership Committee will review all proposals. Between 1 and 6 projects will be selected, with geographic representation as one selection criterion. Winners will be **notified by May 5, 2027**.

THE AWARD

Winners will be invited to present their work at the OMEP World Conference 2027 in Morocco. They will receive some support for their travel and the conference registration fees will be waived. Winning projects will be uploaded on the World OMEP website and ESD Resource Bank.

For inspiration and information, see previous winning projects:
https://omepworld.org/education-for-sustainable-development/

Please send inquiries and proposals to both email addresses:

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And

Ingrid Engdahl at ingridengdahl@gmail.com