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Newsletter No 3 – April 2020

To project leaders in the OMEP ESD rating scale project

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.

This pandemic illustrates how connected people all over the planet are, and also with animals and nature. I am proud to participate for the 12th consecutive year in the OMEP projects on Education for sustainable development. OMEP realised early that the overwhelming threat, and thus task, for our generation is the very unsustainable future, with climate change with already irreversible changes in the biosphere and ecosphere. So, while we of course have to address the current COVID19 pandemic, we must not stop working for the greater goal, a sustainable world.

As you maybe already know, the OMEP Executive committee on March 31 made the decision to postpone the OMEP World conference in Athens one year. We will meet in Athens, but the dates are now July 12-16, 2021. You can follow all updates on the conference website www.omep2020.org.

We know that the situation all over the world is difficult, a lot of activities must be closed or cancelled, so we understand that OMEP ESD project activities are influenced by that. Countries have made different decisions, in some countries preschools and schools are closed, in other places they are open. We have discussed if we should postpone also this project, but we have decided to make that a national and local decision, if and when you can work with this project.

2020 report on the OMEP ESD Rating scale project

So, we are interested in knowing about the current situation in your country, your situation. And we also think it is good to collect some basic information from the first six months of the project. We ask you to send us a National report, by using the Form at the end of this newsletter. It is OK to leave some parts blank if you have not been able to work with the project.

The dead-line May 31, 2020, email the report to vpeurope@omep.org

Working with the pandemic may be included in the project

Of course, it is possible to focus the work with children on the present situation. In the UN Convention on the rights of the child, articles 2, 3, 6, 12 and 24-31 are applicable. And of the 17 Sustainable development goals, goals 3, 4, 6 and 16 are directly addressing the current situation. In the OMEP ESD Rating Scale, many areas and indicator are relevant, especially in the dimension of Environmental sustainability, where area 4 is about Healthy environment, and the indicators address highly relevant indicators.

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 COVID19.

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 the children, to be present and attentive in these times.

Next newsletter in June 2020

will share an analysis of your reports and a discussion about the way forward in our projects.

Seminar at OMEP Conference in Athens in July 2021

We still plan a report for the World Assembly in Athens (July 12-13, 2021), and during the OMEP world conference (July 14-16, 2021), there will still be a seminar where we all can meet and share our experiences from the first part of the project.

*If ANY questions,
please don't hesitate to contact us in the ESD project leadership team.*

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Attachment

Form for 2020 Project Report



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The OMEP ESD Rating Scale project

2020 PROJECT REPORT from (country)

Date of report _____

Please email us your report to vpEurope@worldomep.org before May 31, 2020

Project leader(s)		
Email address(es)		
Participants involved in project (so far)	Number of ECE settings (Preschools, Kindergartens,...)	
	Number of children	
	Age of children	
	Number of schools	
	Number of children	
	Age of children	
	Number of higher education institutions (University, College...)	
	Numbers of ECE Teacher students	
	Number of families	
Other categories		
Have you translated the ESD Rating scale?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> We are working on the translation now <input type="checkbox"/> We can use the scale without translation.	
Have you sent it to world project leader?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> We will send it later around _____ (date)	
Project activities	Planned	Done
	<input type="checkbox"/> Translation of the scale	<input type="checkbox"/> Translation of the scale
	<input type="checkbox"/> Informing about the project	<input type="checkbox"/> Informing about the project
	<input type="checkbox"/> Recruitment of participants	<input type="checkbox"/> Recruitment of participants
	<input type="checkbox"/> Training sessions	<input type="checkbox"/> Training sessions
	<input type="checkbox"/> Implementation of the scale	<input type="checkbox"/> Implementation of the scale
	<input type="checkbox"/> Preliminary project results	<input type="checkbox"/> Preliminary project results
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
National OMEP President		
Language	We work in the _____ language(s)	
We have participated in previous OMEP ESD Projects	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If Yes, describe which project(s):	

Description of what you have done so far in the project

(please describe the project in maximum 300 words (description could deal with translations, recruitment, training sessions, meetings etc)

How is the situation in your country in relation to Covid-19

(please describe in 100 words maximum how the covid-19 pandemic has affected preschools and schools, and teachers, and so on)

What plans do you have for the rest of 2020?

(please describe in 200 words maximum what you will do and if/how you have revised your plans)

What ideas do you have for the continuation of this project?

(please describe in max 100 words if you have ideas or your thoughts about the OMEP ESD project)

How do you plan to disseminate information about the project amongst OMEP members/interested community?

(please describe in max 50 words what communication channels would you use to share information about OMEP ESD project)

Anything more you want to share?