

CALL FOR 2026 PROPOSALS

17TH ANNUAL EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (ESD) AWARD

Submission Deadline: 6th April 2026

All OMEP members are invited to submit their proposals for the 2026 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 since 2010 are impressive. Each year OMEP members from 8 – 30 countries have submitted projects. Over the years, these projects have and have included 185,443 children, 81,441 teachers, 39,821 families, more than 1,000 student teachers, and more than 6692 others. Projects more than 30 countries have received rewards.

2026 PROJECT EXPECTATIONS

For 2026 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 it 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 reflect the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (<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 2026 ESD AWARD

1. Projects must involve
 - (a) work directly with children between birth and age 8, with preference for children younger than 6 years of age; and/or
 - (b) work in pre-service or in-service teacher education.
2. Projects must be for recent (started 2024 or thereafter) or ongoing.

www.omepworld.org

3. Projects must have produced substantial results or be fully completed by June 2026.
4. Proposals must be submitted in English, French and Spanish.
5. Narratives must be clear and concise, describing the project's activities and outcomes.
6. To be considered, the 2026 ESD Award Proposal Form (Appendix 1) must be complete and include a signature by the current OMEP national president.
7. Proposals must be received via email to the persons named below by **April 6, 2026**. Proposals will not be accepted after the deadline.
8. 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. Winner(s) will be **notified by May 5, 2026**.

THE AWARD

Winners will receive a **certificate and free registration** for attending OMEP 2026 World Conference in Poznań, Poland. Winners will present their projects at the conference. Winning projects will be uploaded on the World OMEP website and ESD Resource Bank.

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

Please send inquiries and proposals to both email addresses:

Ingrid Pramling Samuelsson at ingrid.pramling@ped.gu.se and
Adrijana Višnjić-Jevtić at vpeurope@omeworld.org