 **O M E P**

**Organisation Mondiale pour l´Éducation Présoclaire World Organization for Early Childhood Education Organización Mundial para la Educacion Prescolar Czech Republic National Committee**

**2017 ANNUAL REPORT**

1. **National activities**

OMEP Czech Republic is also represented in the in the advisory board of the Ministry of Education of the Czech Republic in matters concerning early childhood education. We consider this activity, which to a certain degree enables us to influence the quality of Czech early childhood care, to be highly important. Due to their position on the advisory board, in 2017 members of the presidium were asked to comment on documents relating to early childhood education, submitted by the Ministry of Education of the Czech Republic. In 2017 these comments concerned the amendment to the decree on early childhood education and the planned changes to the regional education funding system. The chairwoman regularly attends meetings of the advisory board. The advisory board met on 9 November 2017 at the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport.

Members are regularly informed about Czech OMEP Committee events. For this purpose we have set up new websites, including a conference website. We regularly update these websites, and information about the activities of the Czech OMEP Committee is regularly sent out to members by email.

We did not organise any conferences in in 2017, so we focused all our efforts on organising the world assembly and international conference to be held in June 2018 in Prague.

The chairwoman sent the Chamber of Deputies a proposal for the approval of an important day in the Czech Republic – Nursery Schools Day. Nursery Schools Day is already celebrated in Poland and Slovakia.

On 31 March 2017 the J.A. Komensky Museum held a member meeting attended by 41 members and guests. Guests at the member meeting included Mgr. et Mgr. Jaroslava Vatalová, who informed those present about the latest information from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport concerning early childhood education, and Mgr. Hana Splavcová from the National Institute for Education, who spoke about the NIE project entitled Support for the Work of Teachers. The meeting ended with a speech by prof. PhDr. Lenka Šulová, CSc. with a lecture on How to Prepare Children for Successful Entry to Elementary School.

As in the previous two years, at the beginning of April 2017 9 students from the university in Plymouth, Great Britain, visited three nursery schools in Prague, whose directors are members of OMEP. During their internship they learned about the early childhood education system in the Czech Republic. The teacher accompanying them, Philip Selby, is a member of OMEP UK.

The presidium of the Czech OMEP Committee met on a regular basis (4 times a year). These meetings explored on topical problems of the Czech OMEP Committee, although the main topic was the preparation of the world assembly and international conference. In 2017 we set up a conference website, started working on the details of the conference agenda and communicating with speakers, registration opened for the individual presentations in close cooperation with Wattsenglish, and negotiations continued with representatives of the Olympik, Clarion and Karolina hotels. Thanks to a grant from the Prague 8 city district, we also arranged promotional materials and started working on the agenda and preparing the materials for participants.

1. **International activities**

**The world assembly and international conference entitled “Early Childhood Relationship: The Foundation for Sustainable Future” was held in Opatija, Croatia, from 19 – 24 June 2017. The Czech OMEP Committee was represented by the chairwoman Dana Moravcová and other OMEP members, Milada Rabušicová, Jarmila Kotrbová, Jiří Šoltys, Marek Kadlec, Steve Watts, Karel Vaněk and Jaroslava Vatalová, who was also representing** the Czech Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport**. The main aim was to present the official invitation to the world assembly and conference in Prague. The response to our invitation was very positive and it seems that attendance figures will be very high.**

**On 6 – 7 November 2017 the chairwoman was repeatedly invited to attend and speak at a conference entitled The Nursery School is for All Children, which was held in Košice, Slovakia, to mark** Nursery Schools Day in Slovakia**. It was organised by OMEP Slovakia. As the chairwoman was so busy, she was represented at the conference by Jana Prekopová, who gave a brief salutatorian speech and invited members of OMEP Slovakia to attend the international conference in Prague.**

1. **Priorities for 2018**

**The plan for 2018 is to focus particularly on the following activities:**

**Main tasks:**

* Intensive preparation for the OMEP World Assembly and Conference in June 2018 in Prague.
* Announcement of Nursery Schools Day in 2018 (the first nursery school, U svatého Jakuba, established in Prague on 17 January 1869).
* Organisation of elections to the presidium

**Other tasks:**

* Continue cooperation with the English, Polish and Slovak OMEP Committees.
* Promote the development of early childhood education through comments on laws, decrees and other documents concerning early childhood education (on a continuous basis).
* Cooperation with other organisations in the field of early childhood education.
* Continue to maintain membership of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport advisory board for early childhood education.
* Continue to **activate the membership base, attract younger teachers as new members, improve communication with members and the public through our websites.**
* **Consider what will be involved in the celebrations of Nursery Schools Day, if approved**
* **Consider further activities for members**

In Prague on 21 March 2017 PhDr. Dana Moravcová, Ph.D.

 Chair of Czech OMEP Committee