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Newsletter No 1- December 2019

To project leaders in the OMEP ESD rating scale project

WELCOME as project leaders in this important project. This is the first newsletter within the project, and we plan to send out these newsletters monthly.

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World Project leadership team



Ingrid Engdahl is a Swedish preschool teacher and Associate Professor in Child and Youth Sciences at Stockholm University. She is elected OMEP VP for Europe 2019-2021. Together with Professor **Milada Rabušicová**, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic, project leaders for the first three parts of the OMEP World project on Early Childhood Education for Sustainable Development, 2009-2013. Milada is the president of the Czech National Committee of OMEP.

Natalia Ryzhova, Professor of Moscow City University, National Leader of OMEP ESD Project from 2010. Member of OMEP Russia national committee.

Adrijana Višnjić-Jevtić is a former preschool teacher and currently Assistant professor at the University of Zagreb, Croatia. Adrijana is the president of OMEP Croatia.

We are very proud to work together on this important topic. Please, contact us with your questions and if you need help in any way any time during the project.

Timetable for the project

2019

- July** Discussions and decisions around the scale and the project during the OMEP World Assembly in Panama 2019
- September** Developing and deciding on the 2nd edition of the OMEP ESD Rating scale and Rubrics
- November** Launching the project, discussions in National Committees about the project
- December** **15 December** deadline to sign up for the project and appointing national project leaders

2020

- Jan-May** Establishing the project, translating the scale and information, recruiting participants, information and seminars
First round of using the OEMP ESD rating scale with participants
May 31 Sending in report to World leadership team
- July** Discussions during World Assembly in Athens
Open Seminar during World Conference in Athens
- Sep-Dec** Implementing the project, using the scale,
Doing ESD projects with children and ECE teacher students

2021

- Jan-May** ESD project with children and teacher students continues
Second round of using the OEMP ESD rating scale with participants
May 31 Sending in report to World leadership team
- July** Discussions during World Assembly, decision on how to continue
Open Seminar during World Conference

The timetable gives you an overview of what is about to happen. This project will take some time. In many countries, we need to translate the scale. In all countries, we need to organise seminars or meetings to inform and educate participants about ESD in the early years, about the OMEP ESD Rating scale and how to use it.

Then there will be a round of first assessments by using the scale, followed by projects with children and/or teacher students. The aims of the projects are to re-orient and transform the education towards a more sustainable culture. Projects with children take time, and afterwards, there will be a second round of assessments, once more using the scale.

Finally, the project leaders can tell about important steps towards sustainability and of experiences from using the OMEP ESD Rating scale.

Each step in the process will be highlighted and guided by our monthly newsletters. We invite you to send input to these newsletters.

Participating countries

These are the countries that have signed up so far:

Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Chile, Czech Republic, Croatia, Japan, Russia, Sweden, Thailand and Turkey

How to start

This is what you need to do:

- 1) Read carefully through the documents
 - a) Introduction to the OMEP ESD rating scale
 - b) The OMEP ESD Rating scale (2019, 2nd edition)
 - c) The OMEP ESD Rating scale Rubrics.
- 2) If necessary, arrange for translation of these documents to the language(s) used in your country. When translating the OMEP ESD Rating scale, make sure that you use concepts and language that is appropriate for the ECE institutions in your country. E.g. the English version of the scale uses the word *preschool*. However, there might be another word (corresponding to Kindergarten, Centre, Setting, Institution) that would be easier understood and accepted in your country. Of course, you shall use that concept when you translate the scale. And we are sure, there are more concepts or examples in the scale, that you might need to change slightly, to make the scale more user-friendly.
- 3) But do not change too much. As this is an OMEP World Project, it is important to keep to some similarities, to be able to do same analyses and comparisons.
- 4) Send the translated scale to me, and I will make sure it is available on the OMEP World website.
- 5) Think about a strategy to find participants and invite preschools/childcare settings to join the project.
- 6) The scale has also been used during pre-service training of ECE teacher students at universities/colleges. Consider if the OMEP ESD Rating scale could be of interest at some higher institutions in your country and try to recruit participants among the professors and teachers there.
- 7) Start planning for how to organise introductions about the scale. Seminars, OMEP Conferences, meetings at the participating preschools/universities.
- 8) Send us up-dates and questions – we are here to support your work.

Next newsletter will be sent in January 2020

In this Newsletter 2 we will write more about experiences from translating the scale and about different ways to organise introductions of the scale.

If ANY questions, please don't hesitate to contact us in the ESD project leadership team. We are looking forward to working together with you!

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