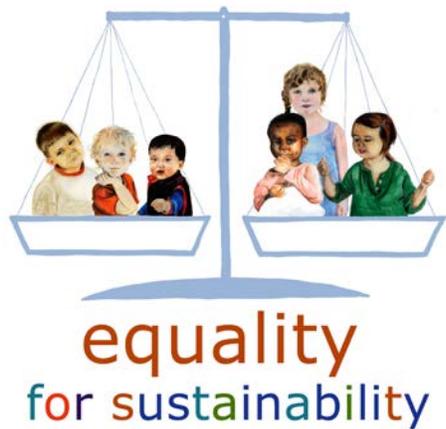


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OMEP's world project 2013-14; Equality for sustainability

OMEP has now worked with various development projects on education for sustainable development since 2010. The work began with an interview study based on a logo where children were portrayed cleaning the world. The next phase involved projects with children engaged in preschool practices based the 7Rs, respect, reflect, rethink, reuse, reduce, recycle, redistribute. A third project has involved intergenerational dialogues, where three generations were involved. Another project, entitled WASH from the Start, has been linked to efforts to improve access to water, sanitation and hygiene. The most recent project has been in developing a rating scale for target setting and in the evaluation of education for sustainable development in ECE. The next project that we hope that many of you will participate in is called Equality for Sustainability.

In a recent survey of the Ministries of Education, Environment and Sustainable Development in 97 UN Member States, the highest priority area to be addressed in achieving Sustainable Development was identified as Poverty. The survey was conducted for the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development and this priority was rated above Climate Change and Agricultural and Food Security. When asked about the priorities for specific educational responses the Ministries rated Early Childhood Education and Care and Teacher Education above other significant areas such as Public Awareness and Higher Education. We live in a world with a great inequality, and we know that this can not continue if we want a more sustainable world and society. Equality is one of the key challenges in achieving a sustainable society and world. There are so many studies showing the benefit of giving boys and girls equality of opportunities, and in recent years we have learnt a great deal about the potential of early childhood education in overcoming disadvantage for both the individual child and for society. Economists and politicians are increasingly aware of the tragic waste of human capital. We are also acutely aware of the need for greater efforts to transform the political aspirations of the Convention on the Rights of the Child into a concrete reality. The Articles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child suggest the need to take action to ensure no child is disadvantaged due to (amongst other things):

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Lack of protection against all forms of discrimination (Articles 2, 30)
Inadequate health care and nutrition (Articles 6, 24)
Abuse and neglect (Articles 19, 34, 36, 37, 38, 39)
Inadequate provision for education, play and development (Articles 23, 28, 29, 31)
Care and protection (Articles 20, 21, 22, 25, 26, 33)
Economic exploitation (Articles 32, 35)
Freedom of Expression and participation (Articles 12, 13)
Inadequate standards of living (Article 27)

In this new OMEP project we want to support early childhood practitioners, trainers, researchers and advisors in their practical efforts to empower young children to escape some of these disadvantages that they face due to an accident of birth into poverty, abuse or discrimination.

We are putting together a web site to provide resources and links to support the development of these practical projects, and it will also provide a means of sharing good practice in these areas. Links to the project support pages will be circulated, and will also be found on www.omep.org.gu.se and www.ecesustainability.org from November 2013. We want you to provide us with reports on your achievements so that we can disseminate these around the world. The authors of the most innovative and successful projects as judged by an independent team of evaluators, will receive scholarships covering their travel and registration expenses to attend the OMEP congress in Cork and report on their projects in July 2014.

Please let us have your indication of interest and a draft outline of your proposed project on the attached proforma by **1st December 2013**. Please send these, and your final applications to Ingrid Pramling Samuelsson (ingrid.pramling@ped.gu.se).

Your final report should be submitted with a revised version of the same proforma by **17th March 2014** at the latest. The report can be up to 5 pages (plus pictures) and should show what has been done in the project, that is, the result that will be the base for the evaluation. All successful applicants will be informed of the results of this scholarship competition by the end of April 2014.