

SECOND MEETING IN SWEDEN REPORT

"Enhancing Transition Practices in Early Childhood Education"



Second project meeting was held in Västerås, Sweden, at Mälardalen University. The project partner meeting was held on 3rd and 4th March 2019. The meeting was attended by representatives of all project partners: Iceland, Ireland, Poland, Croatia and Sweden. However, due to unpredictable circumstances and internal problems, Poland had to leave the project. Therefore, the obligations of Poland were shared by other countries so that the project would continue as scheduled. The first day of the meeting was very dynamic and full of worthy discussions concerning the project's progress, information about the state of transition in each of partner countries, the current knowledge of the transition process, as well as the further steps of the project. The next meeting is scheduled to take place at the University of Iceland in Reykjavik. The assignment of each partner is to present the practice and course of transition from kindergarten to primary school.



After the welcome lunch of our hosts, there was a lecture held by Dr. sc. Adrijana Višnjić Jevtić to Swedish Early and Preschool Education Students. The theme of the lecture was: "Is there a child's perspective in child-centered approach?". Presentation required that students are actively involved and included in discussion. Through the quiz, students were also informed about some

of Croatia's sights, but also carried out some valuable opinions about the theme of the lecture.

After the lecture, members of OMEP Croatia held short workshop and presented their own participation in the work of OMEP. Also they presented possibilities for students and young professionals who are eager to become involved in the organization. The lecturers received valuable information of student's view of the profession and the possibilities of advancement in the profession. Students have heard about OMEP and they mostly associate



it with sustainable development. After the lectures students and young professionals exchanged contacts and we hope that OMEP will actively involve more students and professionals who have just entered the profession.



Second day of the meeting was reserved for the lecture of Dr. sc. Pernille Kallberg on the significance of preschool teachers and teachers during transition from preschool classes to elementary school. The lecturer presented what the Swedish model of transition was and what it is today. In addition, Dr. sc. Kallberg presented her research,

in which she strived to collect attitudes of preschool teachers and teachers about the advantages and disadvantages of Swedish practice. The conclusion was that the most important quality is communication between the preschool teachers, teachers, parents and child in the process of transition.

In the afternoon project participants visited a kindergarten which is an example of good practice. Children under the age of two spend their time in a spacious and open room with a lot of designed stimulus. Children older than two are on the first floor and share all the rooms. In the center there is a large room for meals and activities. The central room is surrounded by smaller rooms that are thematically divided. A room for music, for art, for a symbolic play, for reading, a multimedia room, a room decorated as a rainforest, a room for table manipulative games. Still, when we came to visit the kindergarten, most of the children enjoyed the sunny day in the snow, dressed in warm jackets, soft hats and gloves with a smile on their face. It is precisely the philosophy of education that they advocate - exploring and staying in the open during all weather conditions.



