



11th SCIENTIFIC AND PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE

“Education for Peace: The Quality of Relationships as the Foundation of Change”

CALL FOR PAPERS

OMEP Croatia, in co-organization with the Faculty of Teacher Education, University of Zagreb, cordially invites all educators, teachers, professional associates, and principals involved in the education and care of children from birth to eight years of age, as well as researchers, postgraduate students, and policymakers at the national and local levels, to contribute to the reflection and development of a culture of relationships based on respect, dialogue, and mutual support by participating in the Scientific and Professional Conference.

“Education for Peace: The Quality of Relationships as the Foundation of Change”

The conference will be held from March 16–17, 2026, at Hotel Eden, Rovinj.

At the heart of every learning and development process lies the relationship: the relationship between educator and child, collaboration with parents, relationships among colleagues and professional teams, the relationship with the environment and daily situations, and the relationship with oneself. Together, they form the foundation of the child’s well-being and of high-quality educational work.

The quality of these relationships not only shapes the child’s direct experience but also influences the professional formation of the adults involved in the process. Education for peace begins in the everyday life of the kindergarten — in the way we see the child, how we listen to one another, share space and time, and build security, trust, and a sense of belonging. A culture of peace is built through relationships based on respect, dialogue and appreciation of diversity, and it is precisely these relationships that are the child’s first contact with society and a model of living together (OMEP, 2022).

This Conference is going to open space for scientific and professional reflection, sharing practices and opening a dialogue about the relationships that shape everyday life in educational institutions - relationships that are not only a means of educational work, but also its core.

Conference guiding questions:

- ▶ How do we build and nurture high-quality, emotionally safe relationships with children in early childhood education?
- ▶ How is the quality of relationships reflected in everyday encounters with children, parents, and colleagues?
- ▶ Which competencies of early childhood professionals contribute to creating relationships full of trust and support?
- ▶ How can we build relationships that support diversity, inclusion, and mutual respect?
- ▶ How does collaboration among educators and professional associates contribute to personal and professional growth?
- ▶ How does institutional culture shape relationships among children and adults?
- ▶ In what ways can the physical and material environment contribute to relationships of support, respect, and autonomy?
- ▶ What is the role of reflective and ethical practice in professional relationships in education for peace?

Conference topics:

1. The educator–child relationship – emotional security, sensitivity, and support for autonomy.
2. Collaboration with parents – partnership, communication, and trust.
3. Professional relationships and teamwork – support, shared learning, and reflection.
4. Culture of peace in the institution – ethics of relationships, values, inclusive practices.
5. The child as an active participant in relationships – participation, voice, and togetherness.
6. Interculturality and diversity in the community – respect, understanding, mutual learning.
7. Everyday life and relationships in the rhythm of the day – transitions, rituals, and routines as spaces for connection.
8. Space as support for relationships – environments that nurture interaction and peace.
9. Professional identity and development – relationships with oneself, colleagues, and the profession.
10. Education for peace in practice – projects, approaches, and experiences from everyday work.

Submit an abstract in English via the following link no later than ~~November 30, 2025~~ **December 19, 2025** (extended deadline): <https://forms.gle/FcEAFATbd2eUphSC8>.

Forms of participation:

- Oral presentation (15 + 5 min discussion)
- Workshop (80 min)
- Poster presentation (45 min discussion)
- Self-organized Symposium (80 min)
- PED talk (10-min TED-style presentation).

Web page: www.omep.hr

E-mail: info@omep.hr

In addition to active participation, passive participation (as a listener) is also possible. In order to be included in the program, all active participants must register for participation no later than **22nd of February 2026** via the registration form at <https://forms.gle/jtLGDUsfKUpByVZWA>. The deadline for registration of other participants is **1st of March, 2026**.

The official language of the conference is Croatian.

Complete papers that meet the quality requirements and are accepted by the reviewers will be published in the conference e-proceedings, the publication of which is planned by the end of 2026.

Important dates:

Abstract submission deadline	30. 11. 2025.
Notification of abstract acceptance	18. 1. 2026.
Registration for active participants	22. 2. 2026.
Regular registration	1. 3. 2026.
Conference	16. – 17. 3. 2026.
Full paper submission	26. 4. 2026.

Fees:

	OMEP members	Non-members	By
Early Bird	150 €	200 €	1. 2. 2026.
Regular	200 €	250 €	1. 3. 2026.

*** Self-organized symposium** - the structure, specific topic and objectives are determined by the symposium organizer. The group registers three or four presentations and a moderator. For the symposium, it is necessary to register an abstract for each of the presentations. The application must first state the title of the symposium, followed by the title of the presentation. When and why organize a symposium?

- When you want to share specific examples of good practice/project from your institution.
- When you want to encourage active conversation and deeper reflection on a specific topic.
- By narrowing the scope, symposia allow for more focused and interactive discussions, panel sessions and questions and answers, which allows for clarification and deeper understanding of the topic.

**** PED Talk** - A 10-minute talk without notes or slides based on the concept of a TED-style presentation approach; concise and simple, the PED Talk is an ideal presentation for those who want to present a new, often personal, idea, problem or thought-provoking approach.

Short talks should be personal and narrative, on a topic about which the speaker has knowledge and a deep passion. All unnecessary information is removed from the speech to save time. Every second counts in this short 10-minute presentation.

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