

### **III. Z ŻYCIA NAUKOWEGO**

## **Report from the 8th International Conference Early Childhood Care and Education ECCE**

**Moscow (Russia), 29th of May – 1st of June 2019**

The 8th International Conference “Early Childhood Care and Education” in Russia was held from the 29th of May to the 1st of June in Moscow. The Conference is a follow-up to the successful first ever World Conference on Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) organised by UNESCO in 2010 in Moscow. Since that time, the event has been held annually and it is one of the most significant and biggest forums for the professionals in this field. This year the meetings were focused on the subject of preschool education quality and development. The 8th edition gathered participants from over a hundred countries all over the world.

The main aim of the Conference is to congregate leading researchers, practitioners, teachers, doctoral students and parents interested in the field of early childhood education. What is more, the organisers managed to create a community of ambitious leaders who strive for continuous development and are ready to take responsibility for the future of education in the world. This particular conference was organised by MGIMO University, which is a leading institution of higher education in the field of international relation and education in Russia. The event was organised under the patronage of UNESCO and in cooperation with partner country Turkey and partner region Sakha. The numberless participants of the annual meeting were welcomed in the impressive interior of the MGIMO building, right in the centre of Moscow.

On the first day the event was officially opened with welcoming addresses from the Organising Committee and ECCE Partners followed by two plenary sessions with seven key presentations from this year’s experts. The opening speech was made by Lubov Dukhanina who is a Deputy Chairman of the State Duma Committee on Education and Science in Russia. Next, Nikolay Veraksa, Rector of the International Academy of Preschool Education (IAPE) delivered his speech “Space for Child Development Implementation”. Ilkiz Altinoglu

Dikmeer, the Vice Chair of the Turkish Psychological Association, who was the last one in the first session, spoke about "Ethical Consideration in Child Mental Health Practises".

After a short tea-break the second session started with Ludmila Dudova as a chairman. Vladimir Egorov, Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Sakha started with his presentation "Early Childhood Education: Investing in the Future". Joachim Quintino-Aires, Director of the Vygotsky Institute of Lisbon followed and started his speech about "Neuropsychological re-education in preschoolers with a diagnosis of behavioural and emotional disorder". Next to last, Sergey Kiselev, Head of the laboratory of brain and neurocognitive development at the Ural Federal University, presented his research "Computer Neuropsychological Diagnostics of Preschool Children: Research Results and Prospects". Final speech was made by Anastasia Shlemko, the winner of the all-Russian competition „The best Preschool Teacher – 2018“ in Russia talked about "Small science: Experience in organising educational and research activities".

On the same day, sixteen simultaneous breakout sessions were organised in two sittings. The first one discussed the following topics: *The best practises of preschool education, Professional development of teachers, Sociology of Early Childhood, Social Partnership in Preschool Education, Quality of early childhood education, Ecological Education for Sustainable Development of Children, Threats to Psychological Health of Children: Risk Areas and Ways of Recovery, Education in partner-region Sakha*. The second set of sessions covering other topics took place after a short break. This time the organisers emphasised the following ideas: *The best practises of preschool education part 2, Professional development part 2, Kindergarten and Family, Cognitive development of children, Mathematics in Preschool, Early Childhood Education in the era of digitalization: Multimedia Technology, Preschool Education Administrating, Partner-region Sakha*.

The next day was very intensive and busy as the breakout sessions in combination with other activities lasted the whole day. Additional eight simultaneous sittings were conducted to discuss the following: *Workshops The best practises of preschool education, ICT in early childhood education, Morality Development, Personality Development, Toddler care and education, Child-adult communication, Role of Books in the Development of a Modern Child, Investing in Early Childhood Education as a Key Factor for the Human Capital Formation*. It is worth mentioning that Jakub Adamczewski was selected and spoke as an expert during this session. He also presented his doctoral research in the form of a presentation entitled *Compare impossible. Early Childhood Education Ideas in Finland and Poland*.

The second session on the same day continued some of the topics from the morning's meeting. The topics were as follows: *The best practices of preschool education, Artistic and Aesthetic Development in Early Childhood, Cognitive development of children, Preschool Educational the Juncture of Eras, Toddler care and education, Child-adult communication, Preschool education for children with special needs*.

The last breakout session which was divided into eight areas was mostly complementing the previous one. Participants discussed the following issues:

*The best practices of preschool education in modern world, Artistic and Aesthetic Development in Early Childhood, Physical Activity and Health in Early Childhood, Giftedness Development in Early Childhood, Development-friendly object-space environment, Preschool education for children with special needs, Play in Digital Age, Children in Multicultural Environment.*

The final part of the conference included a UNESCO round table, a poster session and the closing plenary session. Round table discussion focused on the sustainable development as a humanitarian issue and as a subject of education for young children. The experts stressed that sustainable development is now becoming not just an educational subject and guide to action, but also an organisation of the child's educational process. The round table considered the role of preschool education in achieving the sustainable development goals and the role of sustainable development in the transformation of preschool education. During the long lunch break the time came for the question and answer poster session. Multiple researchers presented their posters including ideas like: digital storytelling, supporting play, socio-cognitive advantages of learning a new language, classroom rules and civil sociality, museum in the preschool period and other.

In the closing plenary session the time came for summing up Early Childhood Care and Education Conference of 2019. The final presentations of passionate experts from different educational backgrounds were delivered, which was an inspirational and constituted a perfect summary of the conference. Everyone was able to hear about Modern didactic preschool education (Olga Shiyani, Moscow City University), The Power of Pre-school (Brenda Taggart, United Kingdom), Spatial modeling in the process of free play for preschoolers (Sergey Plakhotnikov, Russia) and Pay it forward. Let's talk about the quality of life of Generation Z, Alpha, Beta... Epsilon, Zeta (Nico van Oudenhoven, Netherlands). This closing ceremony was well-planned and incredibly interesting.

The 8th International Conference on Early Childhood Care and Education was one of the best global meetings of pre-school practitioners I have been able to experience as a doctoral student. The great numbers of academics, teachers, politicians, community workers, psychologists, and students gathered in Moscow with the purpose of exchanging thoughts and experiences from their research and practice. The topics and ideas presented during the productive plenary sessions and workshops were outstandingly interesting and what is more, engaging. Many of them impressed me and undoubtedly appeared to become my inspiration for the future pedagogical practice and research. And since the conference ended, I cannot wait to attend the 9th edition among the same (and new) passionate people.

*Jakub Adamczewski*

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