Monday 28 November 2016

08:30 – 09:00  
Conference Registration

09:00 – 09:45  
The EMEC and IMEC programmes  
Professor Valerie Sollars, Conference Chair & EMEC co-ordinator  
Professor Jan Erik Johansson, IMEC co-ordinator  
Shane Watters, Chair of the External Evaluators’ Committee  
Professor Alfred J Vella, Rector, University of Malta  
Minister for Education and Employment, The Hon. Mr Evarist Bartolo

09:45 – 10:30  
Preparation for school or developing as a child: Local curriculum or scripted instruction?  
Jan Erik Johansson, Norway

10:30 – 11:00  
Coffee Break

11:00 – 11:45  
Play, learning and quality early childhood education: challenges for early childhood education  
Maelis Karlsson Lohmander & Ingrid Pramling Samuelsson, Sweden

11:45 – 12:15  
Session 1: Play and learning  
Play and meaning making in a pre-school community of practice  
Frances Clerkin, Ireland  
The role of the teacher’s imagination in play  
Sarah Young, Australia

12:15 – 13:30  
Session 2: Language matters  
Reflections on a language planning project  
Máire Mhic Mhathúna & Cathy Kelleher, Ireland  
English as a second language in a Maltese context  
Ivana Bankovic, Serbia  
Story- telling and pedagogy  
Dragana Gnjatovic, Serbia
Implementing early childhood curriculum in nomadic pastoralist communities in Turkana in Kenya
John Ng’asike, Kenya

13:30 – 14:30
Lunch Break

14:30 – 15:30
Session 3: Education for Sustainable Development in ECE
Challenging the notion of sustainability within early childhood education – perspectives from new materialism
Kassahun T Weldemariam, Ethiopia

Education for sustainability in early childhood education: Children’s discourses
Adriana Burciaga, Mexico & Paul Pace, Malta

Young children’s perceptions of environmental sustainability: Perspectives from Malta
Jane Spiteri, Malta

15:30 – 16:00
Coffee Break

16:00 – 17:00
Session 4: Addressing Diversity
Arts and aesthetics in multicultural education
Jan Sverre Knudsen, Norway

Diversity: Perspectives of Maltese kindergarten assistants
Juanita Sultana, Malta

Practitioners’ experiences and perspectives on cultural diversity: A multiple case-study in Maltese early years’ settings.
Massoumeh Abedinnejad, Iran & Censu Caruana, Malta

17:00 – 17:15
Conclusions from the day’s presentations
Máire Mhic Mhathúna, Ireland

19:00 - 22:00
Social event (optional)
Dinner
Tuesday 29 November 2016

08:30 – 09:00  Conference Registration

09:00 – 09:45  **Strengthening foundations for learning**  
**Noirin Hayes, Ireland**

09:45 – 11:00  **Session 5: Curricular issues**

- A moment in time: What does it mean to question curriculum?  
  **Aline-Wendy Dunlop, Scotland**

- Different cultures meeting in aesthetic experiences  
  **Leif Hernes & Tona Gulpinar, Norway**

- Children’s encounters with physics. Findings from a study in Sweden  
  **Jonna Larsson, Sweden**

- Assessment in the early years: The approaches and strategies of early childhood educators  
  **Anna May Navarrete, Philippines**

11:00 – 11:30  **Coffee Break**

11:30 – 12:15  **Shaping early childhood education services: Historical developments, current affairs, future challenges**  
**Valerie Sollars, Malta**

12:15– 13:15  **Session 6: Construction of identity**

- Drawing, meaning-making and construction of identity  
  **Josephine Deguara, Malta**

- Developing a sense of identity in a Maltese kindergarten  
  **Mary Claire Saliba, Malta**

- Where are the men in early years settings?  
  **Doris Doku, Ghana**

13:15 – 14:15  **Lunch Break**

14:15 – 15:15  **Session 7: Children and childhoods**

- Conflict solving in the social interaction context among 4-year-old preschoolers in ECEC settings  
  **Loreain Martinez Lejarreta, Spain**

- Toddler Friendship: Analysing conversations in the peer group  
  **Bryndis Gunnarsdottir, Iceland**
Children’s right to participation in the kindergarten: Teachers’ perspectives in Norway and Poland
*Katarzyna Wensierska, Poland*

**Coffee Break**

15:45 – 16:00

**Session 8: Parents’ involvement through technology**

Parents’ voices on WeChat: Exploring Chinese parenting in early years’ context in China
*Xin Luo, China*

**Concluding Plenary Session**

Early Childhood Education and Care: Where are we going?
Panel: Jan-Erik Johannson, Aline-Wendy Dunlop, Noirin Hayes, Maelis Karlsson Lohmander, Máire Mhic Mhathúna, Valerie Sollars