

SIG Gender Balance
EECERA Special Interest Group



Special Interest Group convenors
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Report 2016/2017

The international network on the issue of men, women and gender balance in the ECEC work force has continued its activities in 2016 and 2017.

Participants

Convenors: Tim Rohrmann, Germany; Kari Emilsen, Norway

SIG organizing team: Convenors and David Brody, Israel; Anna Bujnowska, Poland; Jo Warin, UK; Yuwei Xu, UK/China.

The interest in the SIG is still rising. It has currently 20 members, 13 associate members (who are not EECERA members) and about 90 more researchers from more than 25 countries on its mailing list, including some countries outside of Europe.

SIG Activities 2016/2017

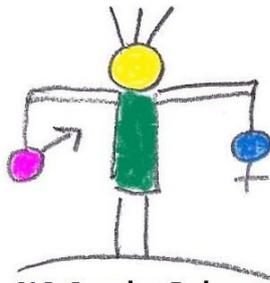
9/2016 SIG research conference on *Gender Balance: New Research Perspectives*. Full-day conference connected to the EECERA Annual conference in Dublin, Ireland, with 26 participants from Belgium, China, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Turkey, and the UK. Round table talks and presentations on (1) Parents' views on male ECEC workers, and (2) on male dropouts. The SIG formed a team to support the convenors in organizing the group, the SIG conference and further activities.

Self organised symposia were held on the EECERA Annual conference with presentations on (1) *International perspectives on gender balance and diversity in ECEC*, and (2) *Gender and innovation in ECEC: Bringing boys and men in*, with contributions from China/Hong Kong, Germany, Israel, Norway, Portugal, and the UK. Moreover, contributions to other symposia on gender issues. Many interesting talks and new contacts.

11/2016 National conferences on men in ECEC in Copenhagen (Denmark), Zurich (Switzerland)
1/2017 and Paris (France), with contributions of SIG members.

1-4/2017 Planning and organizing of symposia for the EECERA Annual conference and SIG research conference in Bologna, 9/2017. Skype conference of Organising team. Proposals for two self organised symposia.

The SIG continuously updates its website www.siggender.eu, with all presentations from past SIG symposia and conferences for download, and information about recent publications. The content was forwarded to EECERA for the new EECERA website already in November 2016 but has not yet been published there.



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Revised requirements for SIG groups in EECERA

The SIG convenors actively took part in the debate on the future role of SIGs within EECERA. Regarding the revised requirements for SIG groups, the SIG gender balance met the requirement 3 of a minimum of 15 members. It should be mentioned that 13 colleagues decided to be “SIG associates” as they are not EECERA members.

Regarding requirement 6, an additional meeting, the SIG organizing team had a skype conference to discuss and prepare the SIG research conference in august 2017. A planned SIG and ERASMUS conference in Dresden (Germany) in March 2017 had to be cancelled due to lack of participants; although the workshop was framed as an ERASMUS+-workshop interested colleagues were not able to get their travel costs funded.

Networking, future plans and links to other institutions

We continued our networking. New colleagues come into the network, including some who already have worked on the issue for a longer time, and others who have started research in related fields. Colleagues from a Swedish-British research network were included in the group. Contacts to an US project lead to participation in a SOS on the 2017 EECERA Annual conference.

Several members of the SIG continue to work on the issue of gender balance in ECEC in their countries. They exchange ideas and support each other in research projects and also in development of measures and strategies. In several countries, SIG members work together with national and regional administration developing policies and funding projects for a better gender balance in ECEC.

There is still a lack of research in the field of gender balance in ECEC. Even some countries where gender balance has been promoted for a longer time are less active now, and research is not supported or funded. Some SIG members are cooperating in small research projects on a very low level. A collaboration on the issue of male dropouts has been started and will be further discussed on this year's SIG conference.