



SIG Gender Balance
EECERA Special Interest Group



Special Interest Group convenors
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Report 2015/2016

The international network on the issue of men, women and gender balance in the ECEC work force has continued its activities in 2015 and 2016.

Participants

Convenors: Tim Rohrmann, Germany; Kari Emilsen, Norway

The interest in the SIG is still rising. It has currently 113 research colleagues from more than 25 countries on its mailing list, including some countries outside of Europe.

SIG Activities 2015/2016

- 9/2015 Publication and dissemination of EECERJ special issue on Gender Balance in the ECEC work force.
- 9/2015 SIG research conference (all-day) connected to the EECERA Annual conference in Barcelona, Spain, with ca. 18 participants on *New perspectives on gender on gender balance research in ECEC*. Round table talks and five presentations of recent research from Turkey, China, Portugal, Sweden, and Norway.

Self organized symposia on the EECERA Annual conference with presentations on (1) *Attitudes to gender equality*, and (2) *A better gender balance in ECEC: research and strategies*, with contributions from Austria, Belgium, Germany, Israel, Norway, and the UK. Moreover, contributions to other symposia on gender issues. Many interesting talks and new contacts.
- 9/2015 Participation of SIG colleagues as experts on a seminar for EU member states on gender segregation in Copenhagen, Denmark
- 10/2015 Participation of SIG colleagues from Norway, Germany, Israel and France on an International conference on Men in ECEC in Asker, Norway
- 2/2016 National conferences on men in ECEC in the UK (Southampton), and Iceland (Reykjavik), with contributions of SIG members.
- 6/2016 ERASMUS+ Meeting of SIG convenors in Lublin, Poland, in the context of an application for a nationwide study on the issue in Poland, with possible contributions of international research experts from the SIG
- 1-6/2015 Planning and organizing of symposia for the EECERA Annual conference and SIG research conference in Dublin, 9/2015. Contributions to three self organized symposia accepted.

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 website now also features "country contact persons" as networking agents in their respective countries. These are not elected representatives, but colleagues who are active in the field, are able to answer requests on national developments, and are in contact with other researchers in their countries.



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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. We are especially happy about the beginning collaboration with an existing Swedish-British research network on the issue.

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. Moreover, some SIG members took part in debates in countries where the issue had not been much discussed before, e.g. Iceland, Switzerland, and France, where national initiatives are on the way.

Some SIG members are cooperating in small research projects on a very low level. As in last year, we are still working on the idea of a European research project but this is a difficult challenge, as the demands for applying for such a project on international level are very high. Ideas for a joint project will be discussed on this years' SIG conference.