

Name of the SIG: Professionalism in EY

SIG convenors:

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SIG members: (names and e-mails)

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1. Aim of the SIG:

To create a safe space where those interested can debate issues relating to the professionalisation of early childhood, both face-to-face at the annual conference and online throughout the year

2. Activities 2016-2017:

Publications, meetings, networking, cross-national collaboration, symposiums

A joint research project reflecting on the current state of play in relation to professionalisation of early childhood across different countries. We have drafted a paper which is in the process of being finalised and submitted for publication.

3. Future activities:

Member of the team will present the paper at the 2018 Conference and discuss in the SIG meeting. Participants in that meeting will develop an action plan for 2019

4. Networks established with other institutions and organisations:

Only through members' affiliations this year

- Eg Marian Quinn and Mary Moloney are both members of a professionalisation sub-group of the National Early Years Forum in Ireland convened by the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs

5. How do the SIG's activities fit with aims and ethos of EECERA:

We address the aims of EECERA as follows:

1. to provide a relevant academic forum in Europe for the promotion, development and dissemination of high quality research into early childhood education;
 - a. P-SIG: our annual face-to-face meeting at the conference enables members to discuss issues, and to set the agenda for the following year. We encourage new members to join. We continue via email and our joint project to continue interaction throughout the year for those interested in doing so
2. to facilitate collaboration and cooperation between European and researchers in this field and the wider early childhood community across the World;
 - a. we have members from a range of nations, including those outside of Europe. Location does not influence opportunity to partake in discussions and ongoing activity
3. to encourage the clear articulation and communication of the links between research, practice and policy;
 - a. our research project for 2018 has linked the policy context to strategies used in professionalisation
4. to offer interaction, development and support to those interested in early childhood education;
 - a. we have used email to maintain contact with members and offered all an opportunity to become involved in our 2018 project
5. to raise the visibility and status of European research in early childhood education through out the World.
 - a. Our joint research project and nearly completed paper identifies the SIG and the opportunities provided through the group for the research.