



SIG Gender Balance Report 2017/2018

The international network on the issue of men, women and gender balance in the ECEC work force has strengthened its connections and continued its activities in 2017 and 2018.

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.

There is continuing interest in the SIG group. It has currently 19 members, 14 associate members (who are not EECERA members) and about 105 more researchers from more than 25 countries on its mailing list, including several from countries outside of Europe.

SIG Activities 2017/2018

- 9/2017 SIG research conference on *Gender and Gender Balance in the context of diversity*. Full-day conference connected to the EECERA Annual conference in Bologna, Italy, with 16 participating researchers from 11 countries: Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Turkey, the UK, and the USA. Participants discussed relations between gender balance and gender equality in ECEC, the role of men's presence in challenging children's gender stereotypes in ECEC, and aspects of career trajectories of men in – and out of – ECEC.
- Symposia were held on the EECERA Annual conference with presentations on (1) *men in ECE and other gender perspectives*, (2) *men in ECEC: motivations, obstacles, and drop-out*, and (3) with contributions from Australia, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Norway, and the USA.
- 1-5/2018 Planning and organizing of symposia for the EECERA Annual conference in Budapest/Hungary, 9/2018. Proposals for three self organized symposia and two posters.
- In vitiation to and planning of SIG research conference on *Strategies and realities: approaches to a better gender balance*. Skype conference of Organizing team.
- 3-4/2018 National conferences on men in ECEC in Norway and the UK, and an International research conference on gender balance in ECEC at Rouen University, France, with contributions of SIG members.

The SIG continuously updates its EECERA website and also its website www.siggender.eu, with all presentations from past SIG symposia and conferences available for download, and with information about recent publications.



Networking and research cooperations

We continued our networking on international level. 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. Several colleagues from outside of Europe have joined the network and will present research results on the EECERA Annual conference in Budapest.

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 some countries, SIG members work together with national and regional administration developing policies and funding projects for a better gender balance in ECEC.

Several SIG members are cooperating in small research projects. Some applications for research projects and policy developments are under way, e.g. with SIG members being experts for projects in other countries. Nevertheless, there is still a lack of research in the field of gender balance in ECEC. Research activities, publications and especially applications for international projects are difficult to realize for colleagues working at universities with less support for research activities, and speaking other languages than English.

A collaboration on *Mens's Career Trajectories* and the issue of dropout started in the SIG group in 2016. Since then the project has gained much interested of researchers, with now 17 researchers from 13 countries being part of the project, although there is no funding for the research. The group will meet for a research seminar before the Annual EECERA meeting in Budapest in August.

Publications

SIG members have been publishing quite actively. Several contributions were published in EECERJ and other journals, or are currently under review. SIG members are part of the editor's teams of two planned special issues, one in English and one in French language. Moreover, two books on gender balance issues will be published in 2018.

Requirements for SIG groups in EECERA

Regarding requirement 6, an additional meeting, the SIG organizing team had a Skype conference to discuss and prepare the SIG research conference in August 2018. Several SIG colleagues met individually e.g. on conferences, ERASMUS visits, or via Skype. The SIG team agrees that the Annual SIG research conference is the best place for the cooperation in the SIG, and that it is not possible to arrange another SIG meeting for the whole group of SIG members. It is suggested that requirement 6 should be reformulated.