# Special Interest Group 'Professionalism in Early Childhood Education and Care'

## **Annual Report**

19 August 2019, Thessaloniki, SIG Conveners

#### **SIG Conveners:**

- 1. Margaret Sims, University of New England, Australia
- 2. Mary Moloney, Mary Immaculate College, Ireland
- 3. Antje Rothe, Leibniz University of Hanover, Germany

### **Report to EECERA Board of Trustees, August 2019**

### Aim of the SIG

To create a safe space where those interested can debate issues relating to professionalism and professionalisation in early childhood education and care, both face-to-face at the annual conference and online throughout the year. The SIG also encourages and facilitates interested parties to collaborate on research projects and publications.

#### SIG Activities 2018-2019

 Member of the P-SIG published a paper based on a collaborative project on "Professionalisation of ECEC" (<a href="https://www.researchgate.net/project/Professionalisation-of-ECEC">https://www.researchgate.net/project/Professionalisation-of-ECEC</a>) and conference paper presented at the 28<sup>th</sup> EECERA Annual Conference 2018:

Moloney, M., Sims, M., Rothe, A., Buettner, C., Sonter, L., Waniganayake, M., Pardo, M., Opazo, M.-J., Calder, P., Girlich, S. (2019). Resisting Neoliberalism: Professionalisation of Early Childhood Education and Care. International Electronic Journal of Elementary Education, 8(1), 1-10.

 Members of the P-SIG organized several self-organized symposia at the 29<sup>th</sup> EECERA Annual Conference 2019

### "What could professionalization in early childhood look like to EC professionals?"

- Antje Rothe (Co-Convener): "Co-constructing professionalism A qualitative approach to collective visions of professionalism")
- Pamela Calder (London South Bank University, UK): "Professionalism in the early childhood workforce. Women's rights or children's rights?"
- Margaret Sims (Co-Convener): "Neoliberalism and early childhood: The invisibility of our take-over"

## "Quality and early childhood professionalization in a neoliberal context"

- Fabio Dovigo (Danish School of Education, DPU Aarhus University, Denmark): "If it ain't got that swing: Developing professional practice in ECEC through improvisation"
- Laura Doan (Thompson Rivers University, Canada): "Professional identity development through a community of practice"
- Margie Rogers (University of New England, Australia): "Contextualised, not neoliberalised professionalism in early childhood"

## P-SIG Meeting 2019 and Future Activities 2019

• At the P-SIG meeting at the 29<sup>th</sup> EECERA Conference 2019, members discussed and agreed a plan to undertake *a cross country study* in 2020. This collaborative research study seeks to understand the *emphases of early childhood programmes/qualifications* and how these programmes/qualifications – apart from academic aspects consider aspects of care as specified in the *Nurturing Care Framework* (World Health Organisation, United Nations Children's Fund, & World Bank Group, 2018).

#### Process so far:

- Prior to the P-SIG 2019 meeting, the co-conveners developed a survey-draft that addresses tertiary educators responsible for teaching in pre-service early childhood courses/qualifications
- 2. The *P-SIG meeting 2019* was used to share and discuss the draft survey with the P-SIG-members. Aspects discussed included who should be involved in completing the survey in individual countries, specific content areas and structure of the survey. Further aspects considered were: ways of communication and translation, publication possibilities and the responsibilities of co-authors in the further process, format of publication
- 3. Co-conveners revise the draft survey on the basis of the remarks received at the P-SIG meeting and clarify on the ethics
- 4. Data collection and data analysis across countries by P-SIG-members
- 5. Preparation of conference presentation and research article based on the findings

Tab. 1: Time plan (until Okt 2020) of cross country-survey on early childhood courses/programmes by the P-SiG

Timetable of Activities																	
No.	Activities	Conven ors	National research ers	Phase 1 (2019/2020)		Phase 2 (2020)					Phase 3 (2020)						
				Sep	Okt	Nov	Dez	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Okt
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1	Preparation of research																
1.1	Revising the survey & integrating comments from P-SIG meeting	Х															
1.2	Agreeing on remaining open questions	Х	Х														
1.3	Claryfing ethics (Mary)	Х															
1.4	Eventual translation		Х														
2	ata collection & analysis																
	Data collection: National researchers distribute survey (link) to all courses in respective country	Х	Х												_ <		
2.2	Initial analysis & preparation of a first draft	Х															
2.3	Circulation amongst national researchers (several iterations possible)		Х														_ <
3	Preparation of presentation/paper																
3.1	Starting a presentation and/or paper based on preliminary results for EECERA 2020	Х	Х														
3.2	Reflection upon previous process and agreement on future goals	Х	Х														
3.3	Continuing process	Х	Х														