

# Professional Development and Quality in Early Childhood Education

Athanasios Gregoriadis  
Vasilis Grammatikopoulos  
Evridiki Zachopoulou  
Editors

# Professional Development and Quality in Early Childhood Education

Comparative European Perspectives

palgrave  
macmillan

*Editors*

Athanasios Gregoriadis  
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki  
Thessaloniki  
Greece

Evridiki Zachopoulou  
Alexander Technological Educational  
Institute of Thessaloniki  
Thessaloniki  
Greece

Vasilis Grammatikopoulos  
University of Crete  
Rethymnon  
Greece

ISBN 978-3-319-64211-6      ISBN 978-3-319-64212-3 (eBook)  
DOI 10.1007/978-3-319-64212-3

Library of Congress Control Number: 2017948301

© The Editor(s) (if applicable) and The Author(s) 2018

This work is subject to copyright. All rights are solely and exclusively licensed by the Publisher, whether the whole or part of the material is concerned, specifically the rights of translation, reprinting, reuse of illustrations, recitation, broadcasting, reproduction on microfilms or in any other physical way, and transmission or information storage and retrieval, electronic adaptation, computer software, or by similar or dissimilar methodology now known or hereafter developed.

The use of general descriptive names, registered names, trademarks, service marks, etc. in this publication does not imply, even in the absence of a specific statement, that such names are exempt from the relevant protective laws and regulations and therefore free for general use.

The publisher, the authors and the editors are safe to assume that the advice and information in this book are believed to be true and accurate at the date of publication. Neither the publisher nor the authors or the editors give a warranty, express or implied, with respect to the material contained herein or for any errors or omissions that may have been made. The publisher remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.

Cover illustration: © Stephen Bonk/Fotolia.co.uk

Printed on acid-free paper

This Palgrave Macmillan imprint is published by Springer Nature  
The registered company is Springer International Publishing AG  
The registered company address is: Gewerbestrasse 11, 6330 Cham, Switzerland

*“To the early childhood teachers of Early Change project.”*  
*“To those who never forget they can make a difference in a young child’s life  
and try to always be consistent.”*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Early change project, which was funded with the support of the Lifelong Learning Programme of the European Union, came to an end on May 31, 2014. The editors of this book would like to express their gratitude to the European Union.

We would like to offer special thanks to Thelma Harms, Dick Clifford, and Thelma Cryer, the developers of the ECERS-R for their sincere support and guidance, whenever it was requested.

We are also grateful to the municipalities, ministries, and educational districts that participated in the project and offered the fertile ground so that this book could come into being. More specifically, we would like to convey our thanks to Municipality of Kalamaria (Greece), the Municipality of Porto (Portugal), the Municipality of Guldborgsund (Denmark), the Municipality of Bucharest (Romania), the Municipalities of Jyväskylä and Kajaani (Finland), the Ministry of Education in Cyprus, and the Educational District of Eastern Thessaloniki.

Thanks are also due to Lena Nteli and Evanthis Chatzivasileiou for their constant support.

Last but not least, we would like to thank all the early childhood educators who participated in this wonderful journey. We are convinced that their participation allowed all the contributors to this book to reflect on the professional development in ECE. The more we learn from one another, the more we can advance in improving the quality of early childhood education for our children.

# CONTENTS

- |          |  |           |
|----------|--|-----------|
| <b>1</b> | <b>Introduction</b>  | <b>1</b>  |
|          | Athanasios Gregoriadis, Vasilis Grammatikopoulos<br>and Evridiki Zachopoulou   |           |
| <b>2</b> | <b>Early Childhood Education and Care Today: Impact,<br/>Policies, Quality</b>   | <b>7</b>  |
|          | Athanasios Gregoriadis, Vasilis Grammatikopoulos<br>and Evridiki Zachopoulou   |           |
| <b>3</b> | <b>Quality of Early Childhood Education Environments:<br/>Discussion on the Concept of Quality and Future<br/>Perspectives</b> | <b>29</b> |
|          | Teresa Leal, Ana Madalena Gamelas, Sílvia Barros<br>and Manuela Pessanha   |           |
| <b>4</b> | <b>Early Change: Description of a Project for Continuing<br/>Professional Development</b>                                      | <b>59</b> |
|          | Evridiki Zachopoulou, Vasilis Grammatikopoulos<br>and Athanasios Gregoriadis   |           |

<b>5</b>	<b>Professional Development and Impact of the Early Change Project: Reflections from the Cypriot Example</b> Eleni Loizou	<b>83</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Professional Development and Impact of the Early Change Project: Reflections from the Danish Example</b> Lise Sanders Olesen and Claus Henriksen	<b>89</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Professional Development and Impact of the Early Change Project: Reflections from the Finnish Example</b> Jarmo Liukkonen, Anne Martin and Tuula Liukkonen	<b>95</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Professional Development and Impact of the Early Change Project: Reflections from the Greek Example</b> Athanasios Gregoriadis, Evridiki Zachopoulou and Vasilis Grammatikopoulos	<b>105</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Professional Development and Impact of the Early Change Project: Reflections from the Portuguese Example</b> Ana Madalena Gamelas, Teresa Leal, Manuela Pessanha and Silvia Barros	<b>115</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Self-Evaluation as a Means to Improve Practice: An Alternative Approach for the Professional Development of Early Childhood Educators</b> Vasilis Grammatikopoulos, Athanasios Gregoriadis and Evridiki Zachopoulou	<b>125</b>

# ACRONYMS

CLASS	Classroom Assessment Scoring System (assessment instrument)
CPD	Continuing Professional Development
EC	European Commission
ECEC	Early Childhood Education and Care
ECE	Early Childhood Education
ECERS-E	Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale-extension (assessment instrument)
ECERS-R	Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale-revised (assessment instrument)
EPPE	UK Effective Preschool and Primary Education
EPPNI	Effective Provision of Preschool in Northern Ireland
EQF	European Quality Framework
EU	European Union
ITERS	Infant Toddler Environment Rating Scale (assessment instrument)
NAEYC	National Association for the Education of Young Children (United States)
NICHD	US National Institute of Child Health and Development
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OMEF	World Organisation for Early Childhood Education and Care
PDEF	Professional Development Evaluation Form
PPE	Pre-primary Education
PSE	Preschool Education
SEED	Study of Early Education and Development
QRIS	Quality Rating and Improvement System
UNESCO	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation



## LIST OF FIGURES

Fig. 10.1	The project's rationale in order to enhance the professional development of early educators	131
-----------	---	-----

# LIST OF TABLES

Table 10.1	Training in the use of the ECERS-R	133
------------	------------------------------------	-----