



Supporting children's agency in a diverse and multilingual world

International Online Conference

4th December 2025

16.00-19.00 East European Standard Time (EEST)

15.00-18.00 Central European Time (CET)

Dear Colleagues and Students,

The University of Ioannina, Department of Early Years Learning and Care and The University of Applied Sciences and Arts Hildesheim, Faculty of Social Work and Health, join in inviting our partner universities to an International Online Conference in the context of international cooperation in ECEC.

This year's Conference focuses on supporting children's agency in a diverse and multilingual world. In today's interconnected world, empowering children to become confident, capable learners requires recognizing and celebrating the rich linguistic and cultural assets they bring to our classrooms. Child agency represents a student's capacity to make meaningful choices about their learning, express their ideas authentically, and take ownership of their educational journey. For multilingual learners, agency becomes particularly powerful when we honor their complete linguistic repertoire as a strength rather than a deficit. When children feel safe to use their home languages, share cultural perspectives, and navigate between different linguistic worlds, they develop stronger metacognitive skills and deeper engagement with learning. This authentic agency transforms classrooms into vibrant communities where every voice matters. Creating inclusive, agency-centered learning environments for multilingual students is an ongoing journey that requires commitment, reflection, and continuous growth. Educators benefit from understanding both the research behind multilingual education and practical strategies for implementation. Against this backdrop, we will discuss experiences and approaches from different contexts trying to develop the necessary skills to support multilingual and diverse learners' agency.

This event is open to all who are interested in early childhood education and care. Together with guests from different countries, we want to share experiences and concepts regarding diverse and multilingual children's agency from an international perspective. The aim is to get into conversation with each other and to think outside the box.



Time	Program
15:00 – 15:20	Welcome and Introduction Konstantina Rentzou & Tim Rohrmann
15:20 – 15:40	Meeting space – Talk to Colleagues from Partner Universities
15:40 – 16:00	Supporting children’s agency in Irish ECEC Joanne McHale, Technological University Dublin, Ireland
16.00 – 16.20	Multilingual Dimensions of Literacy Education: From Theoretical to Pedagogical Discussions Isaak Papadopoulos, International Hellenic University, Greece
16.20 – 16.40	Discussion in mixed small groups
16:40 – 17.00	<i>Break – bring your own tea/coffee!</i>
17.00 – 17.20	Inclusive Language Education: Learning Scenarios for Heterogeneous Learners Renata Zanin Scaratti, Free University of Bozen-Bolzano, Italy
17.20 – 17:40	Interprofessional Collaboration at the Interface between Speech & Language Therapy and Early Childhood Education in Multilingual Contexts Bianka Wachtlin, HAWK Hildesheim, Germany
17.40 – 18:00	Plenary Discussion Final round & Farewell

4th December 2025, online

Time Zones	
16.00 – 19.00	Eastern European Standard Time (Greece, Ukraine)
15.00 – 18.00	Central Europe Standard Time (Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Norway)
2pm – 5pm	Greenwich Mean Time (Ireland)
9 am – 12 am	Eastern Standard Time (New York)

Please register here <https://forms.gle/b3RqWpebNpTmePmY8> until 21st November 2025. **Upon filling in the form do not forget to click Submit to record your answer.**

The link to the conference will be sent to all registrants via email.



Speakers

Dr. Joanne McHale, Lecturer, School of Social Sciences, Law, and Education,
TU Dublin, Ireland.

Dr. Isaak Papadopoulos, Assistant Professor, Department of Early Years Learning and
Care, International Hellenic University, Greece

Dr. Konstantina Rentzou, Assistant Professor, Department of Early Years Learning and
Care, University of Ioannina, Greece

Prof. Dr. Tim Rohrmann, HAWK University of Applied Sciences Hildesheim, Germany.
Program leader for ECEC at the Faculty of Social Work and Health.

Verw. Prof. Dr. Bianka Wachtlin, Speech & Language Therapy, HAWK University of
Applied Sciences Hildesheim, Germany, Faculty of Social Work and Health.

Prof. Renata Zanin Scaratti, Faculty of Education, Free University of Bozen-Bolzano,
Italy.

