



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM  
UNIVERSITA DI BOLOGNA  
DIPARTIMENTO DI SCIENZE DELL'EDUCAZIONE  
'GIOVANNI MARIA BERTIN'



UNIVERSITY OF  
WESTERN MACEDONIA



## CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

### FOURTH INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

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**“EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE:  
CHALLENGES AND PERSPECTIVES”**

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**KORÇË**

*January 15, 2026*

**Department of Education, Faculty of Education and Philology,  
“Fan S. Noli” University**

*In collaboration with:*

- ❖ **Department of Education Sciences "Giovanni Maria Bertin", University  
of Bologna**
- ❖ **University of Western Macedonia, Greece**

<https://unkorce.edu.al/eccec-uniko/>

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In an era marked by rapid social change, economic uncertainty, and growing awareness of educational inequality, Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) remains a crucial cornerstone for building inclusive and resilient societies. Evidence from the World Bank and numerous international studies continues to confirm that the early years are decisive for a child's brain development, socialization, and lifelong learning outcomes. High-quality early education fosters cognitive growth, socioemotional competence, school readiness, and the foundational skills necessary for navigating an increasingly complex world.

The Eurydice Key Data on Early Childhood Education and Care in Europe 2025 highlights both progress and persistent gaps in implementing the Council Recommendation on high-quality ECEC systems (2019/C 189/02). It emphasizes five key areas: universal access, improved staff qualifications and working conditions, coherent curriculum frameworks that support inclusion and transitions, robust monitoring and evaluation tools, and integrated governance and funding. While many countries have expanded provision and raised qualification requirements, challenges remain in ensuring equity, affordability, and effective cross-ministerial coordination. The report reaffirms the Recommendation's vision of high-quality, inclusive, and affordable ECEC as a cornerstone of social rights, child development, and educational equity across Europe. Research indicates that investing in high-quality ECEC not only fosters children's development but also generates long-term societal benefits, such as reducing public expenditure on health, welfare, and justice. In this light, ECEC is not merely a pedagogical priority but also a social imperative.

With this understanding, we invite scholars, practitioners, students, and all stakeholders committed to the field of early childhood to join us in the fourth edition of the ECEC Conference. Together, we will reflect on today's challenges, share research, and explore forward-looking strategies and practices that can shape the future of Early Childhood Education and Care.

## **The conference seeks to address Education and Care issues of Early Childhood in the fields of:**

### **➤ *Policy, Governance & Institutional Roles***

- Redefining the Role of Higher Education Institutions in Shaping Early Childhood Education Systems
- From Policy to Practice: Central and Local Government Responsibilities in Delivering Equitable ECEC
- Early Childhood Governance Models: Comparative International Approaches and Lessons Learned
- Public Investment in Early Childhood: Budgeting for Sustainable and Inclusive Development



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- *Quality and Standards in Early Childhood Education*
  - Towards Global Standards: Measuring and Ensuring Quality in Early Childhood Programs
  - Evidence-Based Frameworks for Development and Learning Standards in Early Years
  - Monitoring, Assessment, and Documentation in Early Learning: Tools, Ethics, and Implementation
  - Psychology, Pedagogy and Arts in ECEC
- *Empowering Professionals and Institutions*
  - Building Competent Early Childhood Workforces: Professional Development and Training Innovations
  - Empowerment through Leadership: Strengthening the Voice and Capacity of ECEC Practitioners
  - Universities as Hubs for ECEC Research, Advocacy, and Innovation
- *Cross-sector Collaboration and Integrated Approaches*
  - Multisectoral Collaboration for Early Childhood: From Silos to Synergy
  - Bridging Health, Social Protection, and Education for Holistic Early Childhood Development
  - Family and Community Engagement in Early Childhood Care and Education
- *Inclusion and Special Needs*
  - Designing Inclusive ECEC Systems for Children with Disabilities and Developmental Delays
  - Universal Design for Learning (UDL) in Early Childhood Classrooms
  - Culturally Responsive and Inclusive Approaches to Early Intervention
- *Future Perspectives and Global Trends*
  - Early Childhood Education in the Era of Digitalization: Risks and Opportunities
  - Climate Change and Early Childhood: Building Resilience from the Start
  - Post-Pandemic Transformations in Early Childhood Systems Worldwide
- *Research, Data and Innovation*
  - Data-Driven Decision-Making in Early Childhood Policy and Practice
  - Translational Research in Early Childhood: Bridging Theory, Practice, and Policy
  - Innovations in Curriculum Design and Play-Based Pedagogy

*as well as any other topics related to the field of early childhood care, development and education*

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## International Scientific Committee:

**Chair: Lorenc EKONOMI** – Professor, Rector, “Fan S. Noli” University, Albania

### **Members:**

**Aida MOSKO**, PhD, vice-rector, “Fan S. Noli” University, Albania

**Jonela SPAHO**, Associate professor, dean of Faculty of Education and Philology, “Fan S. Noli” University of Korça, Albania

**Albina PAJO**, PhD, Education Department Head, “Fan S. Noli” University, Albania

**Irena NIKAJ**, Professor, Department of Education, “Fan S. Noli” University, Albania

**Federica ZANETTI**, Associate professor, Department of Educational Sciences "Giovanni Maria Bertin", University of Bologna, Italy

**Penelope PAPADOPOULOU**, Professor, dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Department of Early Childhood Education, University of Western Macedonia, Greece

**Roberto DAINESE**, Associate professor, Department of Educational Sciences "Giovanni Maria Bertin", University of Bologna, Italy

**Lucia BALDUZZI**, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Educational Sciences "Giovanni Maria Bertin", University of Bologna, Italy

**Sofia ILIADOU-TACHOU**, professor, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities of the University of Western Macedonia

**Vassiliki PLIOGOU**, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Early Childhood Education, University of Western Macedonia, Florina, Greece

**Xristina SIDIROPOULOU**, PhD, Department of Early Childhood Education, University of Western Macedonia, Florina, Greece

**Angelos SOFIANIDIS**, PhD, Department of Early Childhood Education, University of Western Macedonia, Florina, Greece

**Ioli ANDREADI – FILOUMENI**, Assistant Professor, Department of Early Childhood Education, University of Western Macedonia, Florina, Greece

**Stergiani GIAOURI**, Associate Professor, Department of Early Childhood Education, University of Western Macedonia, Florina, Greece

**Evaggelia KALERANTE**, Professor, Department of Early Childhood Education, University of Western Macedonia, Florina, Greece



**Evmorfia KIPOUROPOULOU**, Assistant Professor, Department of Primary Education, University of Western Macedonia, Florina, Greece

**Efthalia KONSTANTINIDOU**, Assistant Professor, Department of Early Childhood Education, University of Western Macedonia, Florina, Greece

**Amaryllis MALEGIANNAKI**, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Western Macedonia, Florina, Greece

**Evangelia PAPADOPOULOU**, Assistant Professor, Department of Early Childhood Education, University of Western Macedonia, Florina, Greece

**Anastasios PAPANIKOLAOU**, Assistant Professor, Department of Primary Education, University of Western Macedonia, Florina, Greece

**Georgia STEPHANOU**, Professor, Department of Early Childhood Education, University of Western Macedonia, Florina, Greece

**Maria Kirilova BAEVA**, Professor, Faculty of Education Studies and the Arts. SU "St. Kliment Ohridski", Sofia, Bulgaria

**Lucia MALINOVA**, Professor, Faculty of Education Studies and the Arts. SU "St. Kliment Ohridski", Sofia, Bulgaria

**Mimoza SHAHINI**, Professor, Faculty of Education, University of Pristina, Kosovo

**Merita SHALA**, Professor, vice-rector, University "Isa Boletini"- Mitrovica, Kosovo

**Lulzim ADEMI**, Professor, Faculty of Pedagogy "St. Kliment Ohridski", University "Ss. Cyril and Methodius" Skopje, North Macedonia

**Fadbi OSMANI**, Professor, dean of Faculty of Pedagogy, University of Tetovo, North Macedonia

**Buniamin MEMEDI**, Professor, Faculty of Pedagogy, University of Tetovo, North Macedonia

**Rabije MURATI**, Professor, Faculty of Pedagogy, University of Tetovo, North Macedonia

**Kushtrim AHMETI**, Professor, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Tetovo, North Macedonia

**Lulzim MURTEZANI**, Professor, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Tetovo, North Macedonia

**Ibrahim NEZIRI**, Professor, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Tetovo, North Macedonia

**Sheruze OSMANI BALLAZHI**, Professor, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Tetovo, North Macedonia

**Mimoza S. ZOGRAFI**, Phd, Department of Statistics, University of Economic and Business, Athens, Greece

**Pylli EVIONDA**, PhD, Department of Education, "Fan S. Noli" University, Albania



**Olger BRAME**, PhD, *Department of Linguistics and Literature, “Fan S. Noli” University, Albania*

**Conference peer reviewing institutions:**

1. Faculty of Education and Philology, “Fan S. Noli” University
2. *Department of Educational Sciences "Giovanni MariaBertin", University of Bologna, Italy*
3. *Faculty of Education Studies and the Arts. SU "St. Kliment Ohridski", Sofia, Bulgaria*
4. *Department of Early Childhood Education, University of Western Macedonia, Florina, Greece*
5. *Faculty of Pedagogy and Faculty of Philosophy, University of Tetovo, North Macedonia*

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**Language of the Conference:** *English*

**Participating modality:**

- ❖ **On site – venue:** *“Fan S. Noli” University, Shëtitorja “Rilindasit”, Korçë, Albania*
- ❖ **Online** – links to panel access will be communicated in time

**Conference Coordinators:**

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- ✓ Albina PAJO - “Fan S. Noli” University
- ✓ Arjan KAMBURI - “Fan S. Noli” University
- ✓ Olger BRAME - “Fan S. Noli” University





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## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



### **Associate Professor Dr. Adriana Fishta-Bejko**

A visionary educator with solid international training and experience, outstanding achievement track record and ability to work collaboratively in designing excellent educational programs engaging students in knowledge mastery and inspiring teachers in choosing the best brain-based teaching strategies and approaches in teaching critical thinking informed by Neuroplasticity and empowering parents to educate responsible citizens. Dr. Fishta-Bejko is an accomplished teacher trainer and team leader with demonstrated ability to design programs, inspire and motivate teams of teachers and parents to deliver mission-critical measurable results. She is an educator who is motivated, innovative, performance driven, detail-oriented and a strong believer in teachers who build capacity and empower their students and who do not "tolerate" but "celebrate" diversity. Over the course of her career, Dr. Bejko has served in leadership roles at universities in Canada and the United States, and later as Director of the Diverse Learning division within the Calgary Board of Education. Even in retirement, she continues her service as Chair of the School Board at the Albanian Language School in Calgary and as a member of Albania's Coordinating Council of Diaspora. Her dedication has earned her numerous awards, including the title of "Albanian Nation's Ambassador."

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## IMPORTANT DATES:

<i>Abstract deadline:</i>	<b>15.12.2025</b>
Topic and resume acceptance notice	<b>22.12.2025</b>
Payment of Conference fee**	<b>30.12.2025</b>
<i>Conference date:</i>	<b>15.01.2026</b>
<i>Paper submission:</i>	<b>15.02.2026</b>
Peer review of articles	<b>27.02.2026</b>
Peer review feedback	<b>06.03.2026</b>
Acceptance of reviewed articles	<b>13.03.2026</b>
<i>Publication in the scientific journal</i>	<b>20.03.2026</b>

**Conference Registration Fees — 50 euro per author**

**Coauthor's fee: 30 euro**

(Example 2 Authors-Total 80 Euros, 3 Authors-Total 110 Euros).

**Participants from the universities co-organizing the conference will not be required to pay a registration fee.**

\*\* Indicative information for payment:

### PAYMENT DETAILS:

Name of the account: TREASURY REVENUE KORÇA 1515

Beneficiary: "FAN S. NOLI" UNIVERSITY OF KORÇA

Institutional Code: 1011046

Economic Account: 7113099

Description: For participation at "ECEC Conference"

\*The name of the author(s) is mandatory information at the bank order.

[http://unkorce.edu.al/sites/default/files/Collection\\_invoice\\_\(1\).pdf](http://unkorce.edu.al/sites/default/files/Collection_invoice_(1).pdf)

\*Alternatively, payment may be carried out in cash at the conference registration desk.





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### **Registration Fee Includes:**

- Participation in all sessions
- Abstract Book (Digital Copy)
- Conference Proceedings (Digital Copy)
- Presentation certificate
- Free proceeding publication with ISBN
- Eligibility for all technical sessions inside the conference
- Conference photo coverage

### **PUBLICATION OPPORTUNITIES:**

Only the authors who present a paper/poster at the Conference can submit a full manuscript to be considered for publication in the Conference Proceedings.

Full manuscripts will be subjected to peer review and will be published only upon acceptance.

Selected papers will be published in the book of proceedings indexed with ISBN, by the end of March 2026. (Scientific journal with ISSN)

**Abstract:** must be submitted by **15 December 2025** to the conference electronic address:

[ececuniko@unkorce.edu.al](mailto:ececuniko@unkorce.edu.al)

[conferenceecec@gmail.com](mailto:conferenceecec@gmail.com)



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## **THE FORMAT OF THE ARTICLE FOR PUBLICATION:**

Mandatory elements:

**Title:**

**Author/s:**

**Email addresses (es):**

**Summary/ abstract:**

**Keywords:**

### **Title:**

The title of the paper should be concise, clear and informative. The title must be printed in CAPITAL letters font 14, bold. The title, author (s) and addresses must be placed in the center. List of the names of the authors, the relevant institutions and their full addresses, the degree or scientific title of the authors follows.

### **Abstract:**

The summary must be presented in two languages, English and Albanian (up to 250 words; 11 pt Times New Roman, line spacing 1)

**Keywords:** 5-7 words listed alphabetically (11pt Times New Roman, Normal)

**The paper** must be written in Microsoft Office Word 2007. Font: 12 pt Times New Roman, single line (justified), line spacing 1. The paper length should exceed 6 pages.

**In-text citations APA Style** should be used: <https://www.citationmachine.net/apa>

**Bibliography format:** <https://www.citationmachine.net/apa>

## **THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**

**Location, available accommodations,  
and noteworthy attractions for  
participants attending the  
conference at the venue**



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Korça City, nestled in southeastern Albania, is a cultural gem surrounded by breathtaking landscapes. Within the city, visitors can explore a rich tapestry of museums: the National Museum of Medieval Art, showcasing exquisite Byzantine icons; the National Museum of Education, housed in the building of Albania's first school; the Bratko Museum of Oriental Art, with rare artifacts from Asia; and the Gjon Mili Photography Museum, dedicated to the pioneering Albanian-American photographer.

Just beyond the city, the UNESCO-listed Lake Ohrid region (Pogradec–Lin) offers serene beauty and historical depth. The village of Lin, perched on the lake's edge, is now recognized as Europe's oldest known settlement, dating back over 8,600 years to around 6600 BC. Underwater excavations revealed a prehistoric stilt village with advanced construction and agricultural techniques, predating even the famous lake dwellings of the Swiss Alps. Visitors can also admire the Paleochristian basilica mosaics in Lin and enjoy the tranquil Drilon–Tushemisht springs and canals, perfect for a peaceful stroll or lakeside meal.

In the surrounding mountains, Voskopoja boasts 17th–18th-century churches adorned with vibrant frescoes, while nearby Prespa Lake invites travelers to take boat trips to Maligrad Island, home to a 14th-century cave church carved into the rock.

All these destinations lie within a compact, safe, and well-connected region—ideal for immersive cultural exploration and scenic escapes.

Location: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/RkbuE46xjr3eWh4R8>

Accommodation: [Booking.com: Hotels in Korçë. Book your hotel now!](https://www.booking.com/hotels-in-korce.html)



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*Some ideas:*

- Hotel Kocibelli Pool & Spa: [Hotel Kocibelli POOL & SPA, Korçë \(updated prices 2025\)](#)
- Grand Hotel Palace: [Grand Hotel Palace, Casino & SPA – Google hotels](#)
- Guest House People: [Guest House People, Korçë \(updated prices 2025\)](#)
- Sahati Hotel & Restaurant: [SAHATI Hotel & Restaurant, Korçë \(updated prices 2025\)](#)
- Cozy Guest Home Korce: [Cozy GuestHome Korce, Korçë \(updated prices 2025\)](#)

*Detailed information will be shared upon  
confirmation of physical attendance at the  
conference.*

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