



2024- 2025 Report

EECERA SIG: Children from Refugee or Migrant Backgrounds

SIG convenors: Dr. Donna Gaywood and Jennifer Koutoulas

SIG membership: 47+ **SIG website** <https://refugee-early-years.org>

Facebook membership: 75

LinkedIn followers: 84

1. Aim of the SIG:

Develop a partnership that will allow applications for various types of funding (Horizon, EEA, NordFORSK, Erasmus +) to pursue collaborative research projects to build on existing studies and further develop an emerging body of knowledge around the experiences of refugee, asylum seeking children and their families who have experienced Forced Migration from an international Early Education perspective.

Respond to EU and World expectation making ECEC institutions which enhance a sense of belonging specifically for children from refugee, asylum-seeking and migrant backgrounds to transform ECEC settings into quality agencies, which are culturally appropriate, safe, welcoming and inclusive societies to achieve better outcomes for refugees and migrant children and their families.

Expand further understandings for the Early Childhood and Education Care workforce, enhance culturally relevant pedagogy and empower ECEC as a sustainable solution for increasing migration challenges.

2. Activities 2024-2025:

- Publications- Popyk, A., Gaywood, D., Tobin, A., Koutoulas, J., Gabi, J. (2025)
- Quarterly online SIG meetings
- Guest Speakers: Dr Halah Ekarif
- Bloomsbury Handbook: *Refugee and Migrant Children in Early Childhood Education and Care* (pre publication) in collaboration with over 50 global researchers.
- SIG Meeting at EECERA conference in Bratislava August 2025.

3. Future activities:

- SIG Poster symposium at EECERA conference in Madiera August 2026
- Dissemination of research and practice by SIG members,
- SIG collaborations through development of webinars.

4. Networks established with other institutions and organisations:

- Bloomsbury Publishers

5. How do the SIG's activities fit with aims and ethos of EECERA: