## SMOOTH Conference, May 26-28 2023, Volos Greece

Understanding Cultural Difference and Equality on the Refugee Issue through History: Teaching approaches in the Greek public kindergarten

Dr. Bantiou Marina, Adjunct Lecturer
Department of Early Childhood Education, University of Thessaly

## Abstract [paper]

Promoting equality, diversity and freedom should be a top goal in schools, which all students are taught from an early age. In kindergarten, children may struggle to handle and understand these abstract concepts. This article examines the case of Greek public kindergartens and how children could approach these concepts through examples of modern and contemporary Greek history. Teaching approaches through major historic events are proposed, as for example the Asia Minor Disaster, which can be a learning field with an emphasis on the refugee issue, with the aim of developing attitudes and adopting values and standards of respect and cooperation among children. Based on experiential - interdisciplinary approach, topics and activities are proposed for the development and consolidation of cooperation and communication relationships between children and the development of empathy. Through history children can understand how diverse today's schools and society are, how to accept individuals for who they are regardless of differences, and how to eliminate stereotypes.