**Cavioni, V., Zanetti, M.A., Cefai, C. (2014, accepted). Promoting life skills through a Resilience Curriculum for Early Years and Primary Schools in Europe. The 14th European Congress of Psychology - Milan, Italy 7-10 July 2015**

Abstract:

The economic crisis which Europe is undergoing at the moment has exacerbated the risks among those already facing disadvantages such as unemployment of young people and new families, increasing poverty and social disadvantage for the whole communities and regions. These challenges underline the need to equip children from an early age with the requisite skills to help them overcome the challenges and obstacles they are set to face in such circumstances while providing healthy and protective contexts which promote their health and well-being. One of the goals of education, therefore is to prepare children and young people for the tests of life through useful and effective skills in navigating the challenges they are set to meet in life.  This paper describes the development of a resilience curriculum for children in early years and primary schools in Europe with the aim of enhancing meaningful and relevant education for all children, particularly the most vulnerable ones. It presents and discusses the curriculum framework developed from the existing literature, the key principles and processes underlying the curriculum, and the major themes forming the curriculum.