



Implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2012-2015) "Growing with Children's Rights" Good Practices and Initiatives

A Good Start in Life

Center for Education and Professional Development, Romania

Country(ies): Romania

Title of practice: A good start in life

Main scope/theme:

- Child-friendly services and systems: child-friendly healthcare, child-friendly social services, education
- Children in vulnerable situations: Roma children

Managing organisation(s): Center for Education and Professional Development, www.stepbystep.ro, contact person: Carmen Anghelescu, carmen.anghelescu@stepbystep.ro

Brief description: The project, "A good start in life", included 200 kindergartens from different counties in Romania. The project started in 2011, and its main focus was to develop services for children aged 2 to 4 years and to make ECEC services more easily accessible to children. The project was developed in partnership with the Ministry of Education, County School Inspectorates and Local Councils. Romania has a split system of early education and care, namely: crèches for children under 3 years of age and kindergartens for children aged 3 to 6 years. The first type of services belongs to the local administration, and the second type (kindergartens) belongs to the education system (the Ministry of Education, and respectively to the County School Inspectorate). In general, crèches emphasise care, and kindergartens focus on "teach and learn". The Centre for Education and Professional Development has a vast amount of experience with ECEC, over 20 years, and it has successfully partnered with local and central authorities within this field.

The main objective of the project, "A good start in life", is to increase the quality of ECEC services in two ways:

- In EU vision of quality, which means public policies to support quality (governance, curriculum, accessibility, evaluation and monitoring, and work force), and
- Using ISSA quality package, which means support for competent teachers and professionals and quality daily activities and interactions.

Timeframe: The project started in 2011 and lasted until 2013. However, it is still ongoing in some locations.

Type of activities:

- Organising an adequate learning space (explore and experiment) for children;
- Training courses for professionals in early child development philosophy (the value of childhood and of the child involved)
- Training of personnel in “child centred” education, that grants the child harmonious development;
- Specific meetings and trainings with parents and professionals to achieve objectives;
- Monitoring of all kindergartens’ groups included in the project; and
- Technical support for all kindergartens included in the project.

Results and outputs: Training packages for practitioners and parents.

Target group(s): Children and adolescents, parents, professionals working with children (representatives from local authorities, such as: the School Inspectorate, Health Department, Social Services from Halland City), decision makers, public authorities and civil servants

Success factor(s): The project included 4000 children, 400 teachers, 2000 parents, and many local administrators. It also developed 96 services for preschool children (aged 2 to 3 years).

Estimated budget and human resources: Five persons were involved in the implementation of the project, and the budget was 4500 euros for the services provided.