



# Better, responsive and coordinated early childhood services

## What is Primokiz?

- » An evidence-based program developed by Jacobs Foundation for increasing access to quality early childhood services for young children.
- » A phased methodology to be used by local governments to improve the services they offer for young children, in a strategic, participatory, and responsive way.

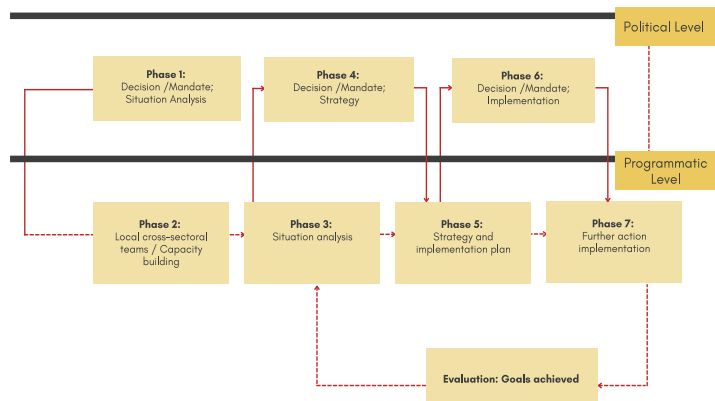


## Who can use the Primokiz Methodology?

Primokiz is a licensed program. The Jacobs Foundation awarded ISSA the license to use it across countries. ISSA sub-licenses Primokiz to its national members, provided that they undergo a 'know-how' capacity building process.

## What is included in the Primokiz Methodology?

- » Main arguments for investing in early childhood services
- » A structured 7-phased process for building local leadership to develop and improve local early childhood services, across sectors, with the contribution of trained facilitators
- » Tools for key steps in the process - the Primokiz Handbook and its annexes, tools for running a situation analysis, for drafting a strategy, for developing an implementation plan, a toolkit for achieving integration across sectors, etc.
- » Expert advice and facilitation of the process



## How does Primokiz work?

### Key steps in the process:

- » Set up local cross-sectoral teams led by the local government
- » Carry out a locally-led situation and needs analysis bringing together specialists and practitioners across early childhood sectors, local government representatives, families, and members of the community
- » Based on the needs, decide jointly on short-medium-long term priorities for improving the early childhood services across sectors
- » Develop a cross-sectoral early childhood strategy/action plan (or embed it into the existing local development strategies) reflecting the jointly decided priorities
- » Approve, fund, and implement the action plan that promotes local partnerships and stakeholders' involvement
- » Monitor the implementation of the plan

## Where is Primokiz implemented?

Since 2012, the Primokiz Methodology has been implemented by local partners of Jacobs Foundation in hundreds of cities across **Switzerland** and **Germany**. Since 2019, it is also implemented by ISSA and ISSA Members in 30 localities in **Romania** and **Slovenia**.

## What are the results of using the **Primokiz Methodology**?

- » A **shared vision** for early years among administrative representatives, professionals, families, and members of the community
- » Increased **local ownership** of the process of assessing needs, prioritizing actions, strategizing, and finding responsive solutions
- » Better understanding of the strengths and gaps in early childhood service provision at the local level
- » Increased **investments** at the local level and better use of existing assets
- » Increased **local capacity** to work across-sectors, driven by a shared vision
- » Increased **coordination across sectors** through action-oriented networks of services and stakeholders
- » New/**improved early childhood services**, responding to actual needs
- » Increased **awareness** about the importance of the early years and of early childhood services for children, families, and communities

## How can **Primokiz** support local governments responding to emergencies, like hosting refugee families?

- » Set up local teams and partnerships to jointly address actual needs
- » Build local capacity to carry out a rapid local needs assessment, involving the families themselves
- » Identify local strengths and gaps in providing a valid response Identify short-medium and long-term priorities
- » Mobilize local expertise and capacity for joint action plans and tailored solutions
- » Ensure coordination across sectors in addressing the needs of young refugee children and their families
- » Nurture the participation of families and local actors in tailoring services for smooth integration

### ***Interested in technical assistance for the Primokiz Methodology?***

ISSA and Centrul Step by Step Romania are ready to provide 'know how', technical assistance and support for local governments and partners to implement the Primokiz methodology.

Contact us at [info@issa.nl](mailto:info@issa.nl).



## **Primokiz Impact**

- » **Building new or renovating existing infrastructure** (parks, playgrounds, creches, kindergartens)
- » **Creating digital maps** with early childhood services in the localities, for families to access
- » **Setting up mechanisms for ongoing communication, coordination, and partnership-building** among different groups of professionals or stakeholders in the city — health, education or social workers, architects, journalists, priests, representatives of the cultural sector
- » **Improving and making better use of databases**, to determine demographic trends, the needs of the families in the coming years and prepare to be ready to respond to them
- » **Creating new services to respond to local needs**, e. g. integrated, flexible, and complementary services called PRIMOHUB (set up in 11 cities of Romania, with support from local authorities), a non-formal service targeting children and families with limited/no access to early childhood services.

