



Webinar:

Enabling responsive early childhood strategies: the Primokiz Approach for Local Governments

October 6th, 2022 – 12.00-13.30 CET

Background

There is growing evidence about the importance of early childhood experiences in an individual's life and increased awareness about the multiple factors that impact children's healthy and rounded development in the environments where they are born. However, catering to their different needs, in the communities where they live, is often a challenge for many countries, resulting in inequalities in accessing and benefitting from different types of support and services provided either directly to young children, or indirectly to their caregivers.

Supporting children and their caregivers during the early childhood years require a 360° approach to all policies and services that can contribute to young children's and caregivers' wellbeing, from education, health, and social protection to housing, employment, and social assistance – a 360° child and family-centred approach. In most countries, the different types of early childhood services (health, education, social protection) are guided by policies, governance, and funding that lack coordination at both national and local level. At the same time, in many countries, local authorities hold the responsibility for funding, governing, and ensuring access to quality early childhood services for young children and their families.

The [Primokiz approach](#) proved to be a successful vehicle for building a sustainable infrastructure of cross-sector capacity at the local level, backed-up by political support and funding able to shape and implement early childhood strategies and plans rooted in the needs of the communities. Using the approach, new services have been created or expanded to meet the needs of children and families that previously were unknown, new outdoor spaces or playgrounds have been built for different age groups, additional education, health, social working staff was hired, and capacity building programs for staff working in ECEC services were provided.

These are only few examples that prove that much can be achieved at the local level through a well-steered, strategic, participatory, and supported process that brings together the political will, the local expertise across sectors, and the voice of parents, early childhood professionals and community stakeholders.

What will you learn during the webinar?

During this webinar, we will provide insights from implementing the Primokiz approach in 30 municipalities from Romania and Slovenia and will aim to answer to the following questions:

- What is Primokiz and what is its unique added value in working at the municipality level to improve the early childhood system?
- To what challenges the implementation of Primokiz helped in finding the answers?
- What are the main achievements from implementing the Primokiz approach?
- What did we learn from implementing the Primokiz approach?

- How is the Primokiz contributing to enabling responsive early childhood solutions for the most vulnerable groups, including the refugee children and their families who fled Ukraine?

Join us to get inspired and learn more about an empowering process that brought early childhood on the local agendas, built expertise and capacity to learn and analyze local needs, to make informed and responsive decisions. Implementers will share insights on how they laid the foundations for an empowered local leadership that understands that early childhood development and early years provision require a cross-sector mindset, and a close look to the real needs of children and families.

Speakers:

Carmen Lica – Executive Director, Step by Step Center, Romania

Cristiana Boca – Early Childhood Coordinator, Step by Step Center, Romania

Mateja Rezek – Researcher, Education Research Institute – Step by Step Center for Quality in Education, Slovenia

Moderator:

Dr. Mihaela Ionescu – Program Director, ISSA