



INTERNATIONAL
STEP by STEP
ASSOCIATION

ISSA – a network and a key player in ECD

4E (Early, Equal, Engaged, Empathetic) PARENT

Kick-off meeting – January 27th, 2023

Who is



?

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In a nutshell...



A more than 20 years old professional association of 90+ member organizations working in the field of early childhood development in close to 40 countries, primarily in Europe and Central Asia



A valuable contributor to, and a key player in, the early childhood field



A platform for learning, for cooperation and co-creation of knowledge in the early childhood field

Global Footprint of ISSA Members

Our vision is a society where all families, communities and professionals work together to empower each child to reach their unique full potential and embrace values of social justice and equity.



Europe

Albania
Austria
Belarus
Belgium
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Bulgaria
Croatia
Czech Republic
Estonia
France
Greece
Hungary
Ireland
Italy
Kosovo
Latvia
Lithuania
Malta
Moldova
Montenegro
Netherlands
North Macedonia
Poland
Romania
Russia
Serbia
Slovakia
Slovenia
UK
Ukraine

Africa

Malawi

Caucasus and Asia

Armenia
Azerbaijan
Georgia
India
Kazakhstan
Kyrgyzstan
Mongolia
Pakistan
Tajikistan
Turkey





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ISSA's functions as a network:

CONNECT AND EMPOWER

- Members
- Cross-country learning
- Sharing of knowledge, innovations

PRODUCE AND DELIVER

- Knowledge
- Tools

ALIGN AND ADVOCATE

- Evidence- and practice-based key messages for influencing early childhood policies

Progress at EU level and country reflections

- Work-Life Balance Directive (2019)
- European Strategy on the Rights of the Child (2021)
- Council Recommendation on the European Child Guarantee (2021)
- Council Recommendations on Barcelona Targets (Dec 2022)
- Gender Equality Strategy (2020-2025)

Country policies and implementation plans ensuring alignment between **gender equality** and **early childhood policies and programs**, for the benefit of the child, mothers and fathers.

ISSA's role in 4EPARENT

- Mobilize key EU stakeholders to highlight learnings and experiences from different countries and define policy change to support gender-equal, responsive, non-violent parenting in the EU.
- Disseminate learnings and approaches from the 4E-PARENT project

ISSA's role in 4EPARENT

Support and facilitate the EU policy dialogue through:



- A policy roundtable in the format of an online stakeholder consultation on existing policies.



- Online exchange and learning workshops on specific transformative and applicable policies and updates on existing directives.



- A final event in Brussels (if not possible online) on results and recommendations including a final report.

Thank you!

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