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The Seventh World Bank's Europe and Central Asia (ECA) Education Conference

Strengthening Early Childhood Education Systems: Investing Early to Ensure Effective Learning

April 7-8, 2014 - Bucharest, Romania

Agenda and Speaker Profile

Seventh World Bank's Europe and Central Asia Education Conference

Strengthening Early Childhood Education Systems: Investing Early to Ensure Effective Learning

AGENDA

Bucharest
April 7-8, 2014

Time	Agenda	Description	Speaker
Sunday, April 6			
19:00-20:30	Welcome Reception at JW Marriott, Constanta Ball Room		
DAY 1: Monday, April 7 – morning sessions			
08:00-09:00	On-site Registration at the Central University Library of Bucharest		
09:00-09:30	Opening Remarks		Remus Pricopie, Romanian Minister of National Education Victor Ponta, Romanian Prime-Minister (Moderator: Alberto Rodriguez)
09:30-09:50	Introduction to the Conference	The session presents the status of ECEC in ECA/CEECIS and objectives of the conference.	Alberto Rodriguez, Acting HD Director, WB
09:50-11:05	Session I: Keynote Address The power of effective early childhood education in preparing all children for lifelong learning	The session discusses how ECE systems--institutional and governance frameworks, schools, parents, and communities--should be designed to effectively support all children to be ready to transit to school. It also discusses expected outcomes of effective ECE systems, <i>i.e.</i> , what children should be able to do by the time they enter school and during the transition to school.	Prof. Jan Peeters, Director, Centre for Innovations in the Early Years Ghent University (Moderator: Deepa Grover)
11:05-11:20	Organization of the conference	Brief description of the conference organization	Sachiko Kataoka, Sr. Education Economist, WB
11:20-11:45	Coffee Break	Sign-up for the parallel sessions	
11:45-12:45	Session II: Developing skills for life	This session will discuss the importance of developing non-cognitive skills and character skills at early stage of life for life-long benefits, including labor market opportunities, especially for the poor and vulnerable.	Tamar Manuelyan Atinc, Visiting Scholar, The Brookings Institution (Moderator: Andrea Guedes)
12:45-14:15	Lunch		

Time	Agenda	Description	Speaker
DAY 1: Monday, April 7 – afternoon sessions			
14:15-15:45	Parallel Sessions III: Improving Access, Quality and Equity in Early Childhood Education: country cases (Round 1)	Two to three panelists per theme will present country cases on the respective themes, and address key issues and questions for discussion. Theme 1: Access and inclusion (i) City of Ghent, Belgium; (ii) Moldova; (iii) Lithuania Theme 2: Smooth transition (i) Norway; (ii) Russian Federation Theme 3: School readiness assessments (i) Canada; (ii) Sweden Theme 4: Training program for practitioners	Theme 1: (Moderators: Dragana Sretenov; Liana Ghent) (i) Prof. Jan Peeters, Ghent University (City of Ghent, Belgium); (ii) Liliana Nicolaescu-Onofrei, Deputy Minister of Education (Moldova) (iii) Teresa Aidukiene, Chief Specialist, Division of Pre-school and Primary Education, Ministry of Education and Science (Lithuania); Theme 2: (Moderator: Tigran Shmis) Round 1: (i) Laila Fossum, Head of Department, Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training (Norway); (ii) Tatiana Volosovets, Director, Institute for Psychological and Pedagogical Issues of Childhood, Russian Academy of Education (Russian Federation); Round 2: (Moderator: Sarah Klaus) (i) Arthur Ivatts, Senior Consultant to the UK government on Gypsy/Roma/Travellers (GRT) populations (Roma in the UK); (ii) Szilvia Pallaghy, Country Officer, Roma Education Fund (Roma in Hungary) Theme 3: (Moderator: Miho Taguma) (i) Jim Grieve, Assistant Deputy Minister, Early Learning Division, Ontario Ministry of Education (Canada); (ii) Sonja Sheridan, Deputy Head, Department of Education, Communication and Learning, University of Gothenburg (Sweden) Theme 4: (Moderators: Carmen Lica, Step by Step; Luminita Costache, UNICEF) Viorica Preda, General Inspector, Ministry of National Education, Romania
15:45-16:00	Coffee Break		
16:00-17:30	Parallel Sessions IV: Improving Access, Quality and Equity in Early Childhood Education: country cases (Round 2)	Theme 1: Access and inclusion (i) Belgium and European countries; (ii) Moldova; (iii) Lithuania Theme 2: Smooth transition for Roma children (i) Roma in the UK; (ii) Roma in Hungary Theme 3: School readiness assessments (i) Canada; (ii) Sweden Theme 4: Training program for practitioners - Continued	
17:30-17:50	Getting ready for Day 2! - Moderators report on the discussion of each thematic session to the organizer for the Recap on Day 2. - Country delegations sign up for Country Group discussions on Day 2		Organizers Sarah Klaus, OSF Sachiko Kataoka, WB Mariana Moarcas, WB
19:00-20:30	Official dinner hosted by the Romanian Ministry of Education at Hilton Hotel		

Time	Agenda	Description	Speaker
DAY 2: Tuesday, April 8			
08:45-09:15	Recap on DAY 1		Sarah Klaus, Director of the Early Childhood Program, OSF
09:15-09:30	Early Years Regional Alliance for ECA	The session introduces the Early Years Regional Alliance, a multi-partner forum in which agencies active in Europe and Central Asia are joining forces to advocate for increased access, equity, quality and investment in early childhood education and care.	Liana Ghent, Executive Director, ISSA (Moderator: Sarah Klaus)
09:30-11:00	Session V: Assessing the ECE systems	The first presentation discusses the World Bank's SABER ECD instrument. The second presentation discusses various school assessment tools, their objectives, and the use of results. The third presentation discusses the Quality Resource Pack that ISSA has developed. It addresses the needs of ECE systems to set up a quality framework for early childhood practices and tools for mentoring, assessing and improving them.	Meskerem Mulatu, Lead Education Specialist, WB Miho Taguma, Sr. Policy Analyst, Directorate for Education, OECD Mihaela Ionescu, Program Director, ISSA (Moderator: Tamar Manuelyan Atinc)
11:00-11:15	Coffee Break		
11:15-12:30	Session VI: The Romanian Country case	The Romanian team will present its ECEC system, including the history, objectives, outcomes, and future plan.	Liliana Preoteasa General Director, Ministry of National Education (Moderator: Mariana Moarcas)
12:30-12:45	Instruction for afternoon sessions		Lucas Gortazar, JPA, Organizer, WB
12:45-14:15	Lunch		
14:15-15:45	Session VII: Group discussions: Challenges and solutions to improve the preschool to primary transition system <u>by group of countries</u>	Country delegations will choose a discussion group to be moderated by the speakers. Relevant OSF/UNICEF/WB staff will join client delegations, wherever applicable. Other participants may join any group of their choice.	Speakers and UNICEF/WB staff will moderate each group session.
15:45-16:00	Coffee Break		
16:00-17:30	Session VIII: Lessons Learned for ECA/CEECIS countries Closing Remarks	The session will summarize lessons learned for ECA/CEECIS countries and suggest how donors could better support them and how countries could cooperate and possibly develop a community of practices in the future (20-30 minutes). It will be followed by a panel discussion (30-40 minutes) and Q&A (15-20 minutes).	Prof. Jan Peeters <i>[Panelists]</i> Tamar Manuelyan Atinc, Deepa Grover, Jim Grieve (Moderator: Alberto Rodriguez) Alberto Rodriguez Acting HD Director, WB

DAY 1

9:00-9:30 am (Aula)

Speaker

Remus Pricopie, Minister, Ministry of National Education, Government of Romania



Prof. Remus Pricopie, PhD, is the Romanian Minister of National Education, since December 2012. His activity within the Romanian Ministry of National Education began in 1996, and includes positions such as Spokesperson, Secretary General, and Deputy Minister – (Secretary of State) for Higher Education, International Relations and Teacher Training. Dr. Pricopie is also professor of public relations and public communication at the National University of Political Science and Public Administration in Bucharest (SNSPA). He has been elected rector of the SNSPA in March 2012, a position he occupied until he was appointed minister of education.

Professor Pricopie has a PhD in Political Science at the SNSPA and he is a Millennium Fulbright alumnus. His educational background includes a rich international experience especially in the United States of America and the European Union. Dr. Remus Pricopie has been Chair of the Task Force on Fostering and Building Human Capital (FBHC) of the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) and President of the Board of Directors of the Romanian-US Fulbright Commission, to name just a few of the significant activities of representation he carried out during his professional career.

The activity of Dr. Remus Pricopie encompasses trans-disciplinary research in the areas of higher education management, internationalization of higher education, public communication, public participation and collaborative public management. As a result of his research, professor Pricopie has published several books, book chapters and over 40 scientific articles in peer-reviewed journals, in the areas of interest.

Speaker

Victor Ponta, Prime Minister, Government of Romania



Victor Ponta (born 20 September 1972 in Bucharest, Romania) is the President of the Romanian Social-Democratic Party (PSD). Since May 2012, he is Prime Minister of Romania.

He graduated from the University of Bucharest's Law faculty and has a PhD in Criminal Law from the University of Bucharest.

He worked as a public prosecutor for the Anti-corruption and Criminal Prosecution Department at the Prosecutor's Office of the Supreme Court of Justice, specializing in the area of economic and financial fraud, between 1998 and 2001, when he was appointed Chief of the PM's Control Department until 2004. During this period he gained a strong public profile by courageous, tough actions.

In 2002 he was elected President of the Youth Organisation within the Social Democratic Party, a role he fulfilled until 2006. He raised the organisation's profile, by bold, highly visible campaigns and in 2005 was elected Vice-President of ECOSY (European Community Organisation of Socialist Youth).

In 2004 he was selected to the Chamber of Deputies as one of the youngest Romanian MPs. He became Vice-President of the Social Democratic Party in 2006.

In 2010 he won the PSD presidency with a program – "The Fair Romania" - centered upon a message of renewal, dynamism and rebuilding of the party's progressive Social-Democratic identity, as well as the establishment of a fairer society in Romania.

In May 2012, he became Prime Minister of Romania and vowed to change the direction of the country – with an impoverished population highly affected by the austerity measures of the previous conservative governments – by applying policies for stimulating growth and the creation of jobs, in line with the European progressive view.

In August 2012, Victor Ponta was elected vice-president of the Socialist International.

9:30-9:50 am (Aula)

Speaker**Alberto Rodriguez**, Ph.D.

Acting Director, Human Development, Europe and Central Asia Region, The World Bank Group
 Manager, Education Sector Department, Europe and Central Asia Region, The World Bank Group

Description

Introduction to the conference: Status of ECEC in ECA/CEECIS and objectives of the conference



Alberto Rodriguez, a Colombian national, joined the World Bank in 1997. He is Acting Director for Human Development and Manager for Education in the Europe and Central Asia Region at The World Bank, with responsibility over the Bank's health, social protection, labor, and education program in the Region.

He has worked on system-wide education reform issues with particular emphasis on their effects on national competitiveness. He has led the policy dialogue and has been Project Manager for World Bank education activities in Brazil, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Slovakia, Poland, Bulgaria, and Bolivia. His interests and experience are in educational administration and management, specifically in the financing of education systems, decentralization, school-based strategic development, innovation and competitiveness, and secondary education- both general and vocational/technical. Prior to joining the World Bank, Dr. Rodriguez was a school teacher and administrator for 7 years and, among other professional responsibilities, served as Technical Secretary of the Ministry of Education in Colombia.

Dr. Rodriguez holds a BS in Industrial Engineering ('90) from Universidad Javeriana in Bogota-Colombia, a MA in Educational Administration ('93), a Masters in Public Administration ('93), and a Ph.D. in Educational Policy and Administration ('96) from the University of Michigan.

Contact information: arodriguez@worldbank.org

9:50-11:05 am (Aula)

Speaker**Dr. Jan Peeters**, Director, Centre for Innovations in the Early Years, Ghent University**Description**

Keynote speech: The power of effective early childhood education in preparing all children for lifelong learning. The session discusses how ECE systems--institutional and governance frameworks and schools --should be designed to effectively support parents, and communities so that all preschool children will be ready to transit to school. The effectiveness of ECE systems will be assessed in terms of governance quality, structural quality, process quality and access quality. This involves financing of ECEC, competences of teachers, curriculum, monitoring, support for disadvantaged children, inclusive education, and involvement of parents and communities. It also discusses expected outcomes of effective ECE systems, i.e., on which social and cognitive competences of children ECEC should focus and what are the critical success factors for a smooth transition: structural, pedagogical, professional continuity and also continuity with the home and community environment of the child.



Dr. Jan Peeters is the Director of the Centre for Innovation in the Early Years of the Department of Social Welfare Studies at the Ghent University (Belgium). He has played a leading role in facilitating and promoting innovative research projects on ECEC within international networks, such as the European Network on Diversity in Early Childhood Education and Training (DECET) and the International Step by Step Association (ISSA) an ECEC network of NGO's in 33 countries in East and Central Europe and Central Asia. He was involved in several Early Childhood Education and Care research projects for UNESCO and the European Commission DG EaC (Competence requirements to work in ECEC / Role ECEC in preventing early School Leaving) and is currently promoter of the Eurofound study 'Assessing Child Care Services' on working conditions and professional development in ECEC). He has published numerous books and articles and , for many years has given presentations on international conferences on poverty, diversity, professionalism and gender in the early years.

11:45-12:45 am (Aula)

Speaker **Tamar Manuelyan Atinc**, Visiting Scholar, Brookings Institution

Description **Developing skills for life.** This session will discuss recent developments on the research of skills and the importance of those for individual and social outcomes, including labor market opportunities, especially for the poor and vulnerable. First, the presentation aims at describing new frameworks and definitions which unpack skills into different categories. Second, it will address the question of how the brain develops patterns of skills throughout the life cycle, based on evidence all around the world, both in developed and developing countries. Finally, it will discuss the implications of these findings for policy makers and the need to rethink the adequate balance in developing cognitive and non-cognitive skills for all children through education systems.



Tamar Manuelyan Atinc is a visiting scholar at Brookings Institution. In her last position, she was The World Bank's Vice President for Human Development for three years, overseeing the Bank's work in the areas of education, health, nutrition, and population and social protection and labor. She represented the Bank in many global fora, including as member of Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Lead Group. In her previous assignments, Ms. Manuelyan Atinc was Director for Human Development in the Bank's Europe and Central Asia region for four years and served as a member of the Board of the Roma Education Fund (REF). She served in the East Asia and the Pacific, and Africa regions in different management positions. In the Africa region, she worked for eight years as Country Economist for Cameroon and Guinea, including three years in Yaounde. Ms. Manuelyan Atinc was also a co-author of the 2006 World Development Report on Equity and Development. A Turkish national, Ms. Manuelyan Atinc has undergraduate and graduate degrees from Harvard University and the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard. She speaks Turkish, Armenian, English, and French.

14:15-15:45pm & 16:00-17:30 pm (Room A)

Speaker **Teresa Aidukiene**, Chief Specialist, Division of Pre-school and Primary Education, Ministry of Education and Science of Lithuania.

Description **Theme 1: Access and Inclusion – Lithuania.** Towards Accessible and Inclusive Early Childhood Education. The following issues will be presented: legislation promoting ECE programmes and inclusive education policy approach; brief current situation (dynamics of involvement of children, including children with SEN, availability of service of specialists); measures for promoting accessibility and inclusion (financing model – “money follow a child”, liberalization of hygiene norms, establishing staff in municipalities for coordinating multidisciplinary support to child and family; requirements for initial teacher education etc.) and the major problems to be solved.



Teresa Aidukiene graduated from Pedagogical Institute in 1977. In 1995–1996 and 1998, she studied at the Stockholm University, International Low Vision Therapist Education/Training/Degree Programme and acquired a Degree of Master of Social Science with a major in Education, Special Education, Low Vision Therapy (1998). She has been working in Vilnius day care center for visually impaired as a special needs education pedagogue and a deputy headmaster and in Vilnius Psychological-Pedagogical Service as a consultant. From 2000 until now, she works with the Lithuanian Ministry of Education and Science as a specialist in special needs education. She is also involved as a lecturer at the Lithuanian University of Educology. She participates in regional and international conferences, and regional and international projects as an expert, consultant or lecturer (“Individual Educational Plans. Transition from School to Employment” initiated by the European Agency for Development in Special Needs Education, “Promoting inclusive education policy in Tajikistan”; The Nordic-Baltic project “A School for All”, “Developing Pre-school and Pre-primary Education”). **Contact information:** teresa.aidukiene@smm.lt

14:15-15:45pm & 16:00-17:30 pm (Room A)

Speaker **Dr. Jan Peeters**, Director, Centre for Innovations in the Early Years, Ghent University

Description **Theme 1: Access and Inclusion – City of Ghent, Belgium.** Access and quality: the results of a Transatlantic Forum on Inclusive Early Years and a case study of the city of Ghent Belgium. In 2013, a consortium of Foundations organized a meeting on access and quality in ECEC for children from poor and migrant background in the city of Ghent (Belgium). In this presentation, the results of this meeting will be shown and the coherent policy on accessibility for vulnerable group that exists in the city of Ghent for many years will be explained as a case study on access and quality. The presentation will be illustrated by a short video in which researchers and policy makers give their views on the importance of access for all in ECEC.



Dr. Jan Peeters is the Director of the Centre for Innovation in the Early Years of the Department of Social Welfare Studies at the Ghent University (Belgium). He has played a leading role in facilitating and promoting innovative research projects on ECEC within international networks, such as the European Network on Diversity in Early Childhood Education and Training (DECET) and the International Step by Step Association (ISSA) an ECEC network of NGO's in 33 countries in East and Central Europe and Central Asia. He was involved in several Early Childhood Education and Care research projects for UNESCO and the European Commission DG EaC (Competence requirements to work in ECEC / Role ECEC in preventing early School Leaving) and is currently promoter of the Eurofound study 'Assessing Child Care Services' on working conditions and professional development in ECEC). He has published numerous books and articles and, for many years has given presentations on international conferences on poverty, diversity, professionalism and gender in the early years.

14:15-15:45pm & 16:00-17:30 pm (Room A)

Speaker **Liliana Nicolaescu-Onofrei**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education, Moldova

Description **Theme 1: Access and Inclusion - Moldova.** This session will present the experience and the efforts for ensuring access to quality ECD for all children, focusing on: recently developed policy documents, revised legislative framework and applied / envisioned implementation mechanisms. The session will refer to concrete actions that facilitate access and inclusion, and lessons learned: successes and difficulties that were experienced in this area in Moldova. A special emphasis will be put on new ideas: diversification of early childhood education services, integrated approach, and the role of parents and community in the process.



Ms. Nicolaescu-Onofrei was appointed as Deputy Minister of Education in July, 2012. Prior to the employment with the Ministry, her professional experience included positions of Language Program Coordinator for USA Peace Corps Moldova, Director of Education Programs for Soros Foundation Moldova, and Executive Director of Pro Didactica Educational Center, one of the leading educational NGOs and think tanks in Moldova. Her international expertise comprises consulting services within different educational projects in Palau, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, and Turkmenistan, focusing on various areas (curriculum, textbooks and teaching materials development, teacher training and professional development, foreign/second language teaching methodology, intercultural education, educational programs design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation etc.). **Contact information:** Piața Marii Adunări Naționale nr. 1, Casa Guvernului, MD-2033 Chișinău, Republica Moldova Tel.: (+373 22) 23 34 18 E-mail: office: liliana.onofrei@edu.md, personal: onofreililiana@gmail.com

14:15-15:45pm (Room B)

Speaker **Tatiana Volosovets**, Director of the Institute for Psychological and Pedagogical Issues of Childhood,
Russian Academy of Education

Description **Theme 2: Smooth transition – Russian Federation.** This session will focus on the recent policy change in Russia to promote child centered ECD and preschool education. The presentation will include issues concerning curriculum, legislation, inclusive education and teacher education, as well as main policy focus of the new standards that ensure smooth transition from kindergarten to primary school.



Ms. Volosovets has been a Director of the Institute for Psychological and Pedagogical Issues of Childhood since 2008. From 2002 to 2004, she worked as Director of Department for Special Education in Russian Ministry of Education. She has a 26-year experience of professional training of specialists for psychological and pedagogical fields. Ms. Volosovets is an author of more than 50 articles and holds a Ph.D (candidate of sciences) in Pedagogics (speech therapy). She is a constant member of the government's advisory committee on issues of family policies and childhood. Since 2013, she has been a member of the working group for National ECD Standard development.

14:15-15:45pm (Room B)

Speaker **Laila Fossum**, Head of Department, Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training

Description **Theme 2: Smooth transition – Norway.** This session will describe the Norwegian ECEC-system and the measures taken to help children to transit from kindergarten to primary school in a good way. The presentation will include issues concerning curriculum, legislation and teacher education, and highlight what values and principles Norway emphasize regarding transition from kindergarten to primary school.



Ms. Fossum has since 2012 been head of the Department of Early Childhood Education and Care in the Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training. From 2004 to 2012 she was head of the Department of Curriculum including primary and secondary education. She has a bachelor's degree from the University of Oslo, has worked as a teacher in lower and upper secondary school and was for many years a representative of a teachers' union.

16:00-17:30 pm (Room B)

Speaker **Arthur Ivatts**, Senior Consultant to the UK government on Gypsy/Roma/Travellers (GRT) populations

Description **Theme 2: Smooth transition – “Early Childhood Care and Education – transition to school – Roma children”**. This presentation will initially focus on the pan-European situation of Roma and their lack of access to quality early childhood education and thus their hindered and problematic transition to primary schooling. Although this part of the presentation will be brief, it will hopefully illustrate why the Roma are increasingly close to the top of the European social, educational, and political ‘worry’ agendas. The second element of the presentation will focus on the success stories in policy, provision and practice as demonstrated by, for example, the work of the OSF Early Childhood Program and the long and distinguished history of very successful practice in the UK in regard to Roma education. The conclusions will include an analysis of the lessons learned over the last 20 or so years. Such lessons need to be heeded if we are to make significant progress which is so urgently needed in most Member States of the EU and the Council of Europe. It is hoped that the session will have sufficient time for questions and discussion.



Arthur Ivatts worked initially as a teacher and youth leader. Following a higher degree in anthropology, which focused on the Gypsies/Roma in England, he became involved with the early efforts to secure education for disadvantaged and marginalized groups of children. After some years working within the voluntary NGO sector he joined Her Majesty’s Inspectors of Schools (HMI) in England in 1975 and soon became a specialist in educational disadvantage. In 1979 he became the HMI, with national responsibility for the education of Gypsy/Roma and Traveller children. He held this post, together with responsibilities for the education of asylum seekers and refugees and intercultural education, until 2003 when he decided to do consultancy work for government departments and intergovernmental organizations. Arthur Ivatts worked on the HMI team which inspected and reported on policy and provision for Traveller children (OFSTED). He has recently been involved in Roma/Gypsy related projects in Bulgaria, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Croatia, Hungary and Romania. Ten years ago he worked with a small research team on a report for the European Commission in relation to Roma and EU enlargement “The Situation of Roma in an Enlarged European Union” – EU November 2004). Between 1989 and 2009, he was also working on a number of priority issues for the UK Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) concerned with educational inclusion, the education of asylum seekers, refugees, and migrants. He has also previously been contracted to the Council of Europe Roma Education Project, the Roma Education Fund, and completed work for UNESCO on Early Childhood Education and for Unicef on Intercultural and Inclusive education. In the last 7 years, he has also devoted a great deal of time to giving lectures on inclusive education at the Charles University in Prague and other universities across Europe. In 2004, he was awarded an OBE by the Queen for his services to education. Arthur Ivatts is currently working as a consultant for the OSF Early Childhood Program.

16:00-17:30 pm (Room B)

Speaker **Szilvia Pallaghy**, Country Officer, Roma Education Fund

Description **Theme 2: Smooth transition – Roma in Hungary**



Starting in 2003, **Szilvia Pallaghy** worked for the Ministry of Education, Hungary in various positions. She led the office of the Ministerial Commissioner for the Integration of Roma and Disadvantaged Children, while from 2006 onward, she was responsible for preparing the educational legislative framework related to Roma inclusion/ equal opportunities, budget planning, and EU funds. She joined the Roma Education Fund in 2010 as the project manager of an EU-funded early childhood education and care project, called ‘A Good Start’. Currently she is leading the 2nd phase of the project, while working in several Western-Balkan countries as a Country Officer.

14:15-15:45pm & 16:00-17:30 pm (Room C)

Speaker **Jim Grieve**, Assistant Deputy Minister, Early Learning Division, Ontario (Canada) Ministry of Education

Description **Theme 3: School readiness assessment: from synapses to schools: measuring and improving population outcomes for young children - Canada.** In this provocative and practical session, Jim Grieve, Assistant Deputy Minister of Early Years with the Ontario Ministry of Education, will present research from Canada and other countries to demonstrate the benefits of taking a population-based approach to programming for young children. The presentation will share measures of early childhood development based on the Early Development Instrument. Created in Canada and now used around the world, the EDI measures five domains of school readiness. Examples of ways in which EDI data have been used to improve child outcomes and to mobilize communities will be shared.



Jim Grieve was appointed Assistant Deputy Minister of the Early Learning Division for the Ontario Ministry of Education in November of 2009 to lead the provincial implementation of full-day kindergarten for four and five year olds. With the transfer of responsibility for child care to the Early Learning Division, Jim leads the work of creating a seamless early learning experience for children from birth onward. Jim recognizes this initiative as one of the most significant investments in the future of our children and the province. His passionate advocacy for early learning began through his direct work as one founding member of the Council for Early Child Development. Over the last 15 years, along with Dr. Fraser Mustard, Dr. Dan Offord, Dr. Magdalena Janus, and countless talented leaders in the field of early childhood development, he has worked to develop strong multi-sectoral initiatives designed to help young children and families in Canada thrive. He chaired two highly recognized Success By 6 organizations in Ottawa and Peel. Following an exemplary career as a teacher, school administrator, and superintendent in the North York Board of Education, Jim served as Director of Education in Ottawa-Carleton for four years before moving to the Director of Education role for seven years with Peel District School Board, Canada's second largest school board. Jim holds a Masters Degree from OISE/University of Toronto, along with undergraduate degrees from York University and Victoria College of the University of Toronto. Known as a highly visible and approachable leader, Jim has visited more than 100 communities, to view exemplary programs and meet leaders of Best Start networks, child care, municipalities, and education to engage and dialogue with early learning partners.

14:15-15:45pm & 16:00-17:30 pm (Room C)

Speaker **Sonja Sheridan**, Deputy Head, Department of Education, Communication and Learning, University of Gothenburg

Description **Theme 3: School readiness assessment – Sweden.** From a perspective on pedagogical quality, this session aims to discuss conditions created in Swedish preschools for children's transition to school and lifelong learning. The pedagogical quality of preschool ought to be evaluated and assessed in terms of policy and methods used on the societal level/arena, the municipality level/arena, and the preschool level/arena. In focus are the ECERS and an action research model for teachers' competence development, focusing on structural aspects and preschool teachers competence, and approach towards children's learning and development in preschool.



Sonja Sheridan is a professor in Education at the Department of Education, Communication and Learning, Gothenburg University. Her research interests are quality issues related to the preschool profession and children's learning in preschool. She has been the leader of several research projects with many international publications. She has worked for the Swedish Ministry of Education in many different roles, one of these to participate in the revision of the Swedish curricula for preschool, another to participate in an OECD network, Monitoring Child Outcomes in ECEC. She has also participated as an expert for NOKUT in the government initiated evaluation of preschool education in Norway.

14:15-15:45pm & 16:00-17:30 pm (Aula)

Speaker **Viorica Preda**, General Inspector for Preschool Education, Ministry of National Education, Romania

Description **Theme 4: Training program for practitioners.** The first presentation will focus on *Curriculum and Professional Development in ECEC – influences and interconnections*. It will provide an overview of programs and policy measures related both to curriculum and the professional development of teachers in the Romanian ECEC system. After the presentation, three specialists from the county level will highlight three good practice examples in order to give the flavor of change promoted in Romania. The second presentation and other three good practice examples will focus on success stories in policy provision and practice related to *Kindergarten at the heart of community development in Romania*. The conclusions will conduct to some lessons learned by the Romanian Ministry of Education, over the last 20 or so years, in partnership with WB, UNICEF, OSI, and other important stakeholders.



Viorica Preda is, since 1998, a General Inspector for Preschool Education in the Ministry of National Education. She has a bachelor's degree from University of Bucharest (1989), a master degree in Educational Management (2007) and started in 2013, a doctorate program on Education Sciences at Bucharest University, Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences. In 1980, she started to work as a preschool teacher and in 1992, she became principal of a kindergarten in Bucharest. In a short period of time she was promoted as Methodist at the level of District no.6, in Bucharest (1993) and also as a Specialty Inspector (1996) in the same District.

Many programs or studies related to Early Childhood Education and Care developed after 1990 in Romania represent a part of her professional development and, in that context, we can mention that she grew up alongside with ECEC Romanian concept.

DAY 2

9:15-9:30 am (Aula)

Speaker

Liana Ghent, Executive Director, International Step by Step Association (ISSA)

Description

The Early Years Regional Alliance – A platform to catalyze a movement for Early Childhood Development in Europe and Central Asia. This presentation will announce the launch of the Early Years Regional Alliance, a multi-partner forum in which agencies active in Europe and Central Asia are joining forces to advocate for increased access, equity, quality and investment in early childhood education and care. The mission of the Alliance is to promote a comprehensive and inclusive approach to early childhood development as the strongest foundation for children's lifelong well-being and success. The Alliance will do this through enabling cross-sectoral dialogue among decision makers, practitioners and other stakeholders in order to further strengthen the links between research, practice and policy, and through advocating for convergent, high quality and equitable basic services for young children (0-8 years) and their families. The founding partners of the Alliance are ISSA, the Open Society Foundations, Save the Children and UNICEF. Close to 25 other organizations have expressed an interest to join this Alliance, which is hosted by ISSA, with co-funding from the World Bank via a sub-grant from the Consultative Group on Early Childhood Care and Development.



Liana Ghent has been the Executive Director of ISSA since 2006. ISSA is a membership association that connects professionals and organizations working in the field of early childhood development across Europe and Central Asia. Prior to joining ISSA, she was the Co-President of the Civic Education Project, and, later she worked as Senior Program Manager for the Higher Education Support Program of the Open Society Foundations. Her professional experience includes close to 25 years of managing programs and non-profit organizations active in higher education and in early childhood development. She has led initiatives focused on delivering adult education, building learning communities, establishing online courses and knowledge management systems, research, and influencing policy.

9:30-11:00 am (Aula)

Speaker

Miho Taguma, Senior Policy Analyst and Project Leader, Early Childhood and Schools Division, Directorate for Education, OECD

Description

School readiness assessment. The presentation will first introduce how the OECD conducts reviews of ECEC systems, in terms of (1) access, (2) equity, and (3) quality, in OECD countries and non-member economies. The discussion will pay special attention on assessing "quality" in terms of (1) quality standards, (2) curriculum and pedagogy, (3) ECEC staff, (4) family and community engagement, and (5) data, research and monitoring. The presentation will conclude with the current as well as planned future work of the OECD.



Miho Taguma is Senior Policy Analyst in the Early Childhood and Schools Division of the Directorate for Education at the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) (2006-present). She is the project manager for the OECD Network on Early Childhood Education and Care and the OECD project "Review of policies and practices for monitoring quality in early learning and development". She was also the manager of the project "Encouraging Quality in Early Childhood Education and Care" and the OECD Policy Review of Migrant Education. Additionally, she has worked on the OECD Policy Review of Recognition of Non-formal and Informal Learning. Prior to joining to the Early Childhood and Schools Division, she worked at the Centre for Educational Research and Innovation of the OECD (2003-2005). During her post at the Centre, she worked on "E-learning in Tertiary Education". She was also involved in the UNESCO-OECD Policy Review of Education Sector for Mauritius as a review team member. Prior to joining the OECD, she was working in the Education Sector of UNESCO (2002-2003). She was working on intercultural dialogue and education projects.

9:30-11:00 am (Aula)

Speaker **Dr. Mihaela Ionescu**, Program Director, ISSA

Description **Investing in Sustainable Professional Development in Early Childhood Services – The ISSA Quality Resource Pack.** ISSA has, at the core of its programs, the investment in continuous professional development of professionals working with young children, thus assuring high quality practices in early childhood services. Following its Principles of Quality Pedagogy, a comprehensive Quality Resource Pack was developed to support ISSA's members and partners to work on the improvement of quality practices in preschools and primary schools in their countries. The resources support educators to engage in self-reflection and self-assessment, as well as in reflective discussions in professional learning communities. The Pack also includes tools for mentoring educators in their professional development process. These interlinked resources offer guidance to educators, mentors, and supervisors to develop professional development plans and have in depth discussions around seven focus areas of quality pedagogy.



Dr. Mihaela Ionescu is the Program Director of the International Step by Step Association (ISSA), a membership association that connects professionals and organizations working in the field of early childhood development (www.issa.nl). She is an early childhood education expert, doctor in Education Sciences. She has worked for more than 15 years as a researcher in the education field, an education policy developer, trainer, and leader of programs and projects aiming to improve the quality of early childhood education and care services. As the Program Director of ISSA she has been deeply involved in strategic planning and in implementing programs and resources aimed at providing equitable and high quality early childhood services in countries from ISSA regions, by strengthening the capacity of ISSA members to work with professionals, parents, administrators and policy makers. Over the years she has worked as international consultant for UNICEF and World Bank in countries of the CEE/CIS region.

9:30-11:00 am (Aula)

Speaker **Meskerem (Lily) Mulatu**, Lead Education Specialist, Europe and Central Asia, The World Bank

Description **SABER Early Childhood Development Platform.** The Systems Approach for Better Education Results (SABER) is an initiative to produce comparative data and knowledge on education policies and institutions, with the aim of helping countries systematically strengthen their education systems. SABER evaluates the quality of education policies against evidence-based global standards, using new diagnostic tools and detailed policy data collected for the initiative. The SABER country reports give all parties with a stake in educational results—from administrators, teachers, and parents to policymakers and business people—an accessible, objective snapshot showing how well their country's education system policies are oriented toward promoting Learning for All. SABER ECD is the tool module for Early Childhood Development systems.



Ms. Meskerem Mulatu, an Ethiopian national, joined the World Bank as part of the Young Professionals Program in 1993. She has worked in several regions for the World Bank: Europe/Central Asia, Middle East/North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa and East Asia. She started her latest assignment in the Europe and Central Asia region in September 2009 as the Sector Leader for the South Caucasus, working on Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia, and most recently as the Lead Education Specialist working on Romania and the South Caucasus. Ms. Mulatu holds a Bachelor degree from Mount Holyoke College as well as a Master in Public Affairs from Princeton University. Ms. Mulatu has had the opportunity to expand her experiences in social sector policy development outside the Bank: she served as the World Bank's representative to the Secretariat for the Financing for Development at the United Nations in 2000-2001, and spent a year assigned by the World Bank as an adviser to the Superintendent of Schools to the city of Washington, DC in 1998.

11:15-12:30 am (Aula)

Speaker

Liliana Preoteasa, General Director, Ministry of National Education, Romania

Description

The Romania Country Case. Presentation of the ECEC system, including the history, objectives, outcomes, and future plan.



Liliana Preoteasa is the General Director of the General Directorate for Education and Lifelong Learning within the Minister of National Education, Romania. She has an extensive experience in the educational sector, as a director of the pre - university department within the Ministry of National Education, but also as a teacher and author of mathematics textbooks for high school students. From the position of general director, she is responsible for the overall preschool, primary, secondary and tertiary – non university education, including: elaboration of educational strategies, policies, and regulations concerning the pre-university education, coordination of the ministry's inspection or organization of national examinations and curriculum development. Mrs. Liliana Preoteasa has lead several projects focusing on increasing access to quality education for vulnerable groups.



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