

The Early Years Regional Alliance

A Platform to catalyze a movement for Early Childhood
Development in Europe and Central Asia

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Strengthening Early Childhood Education Systems: Investing Early to Ensure Effective Learning
Bucharest, April 7-8, 2014

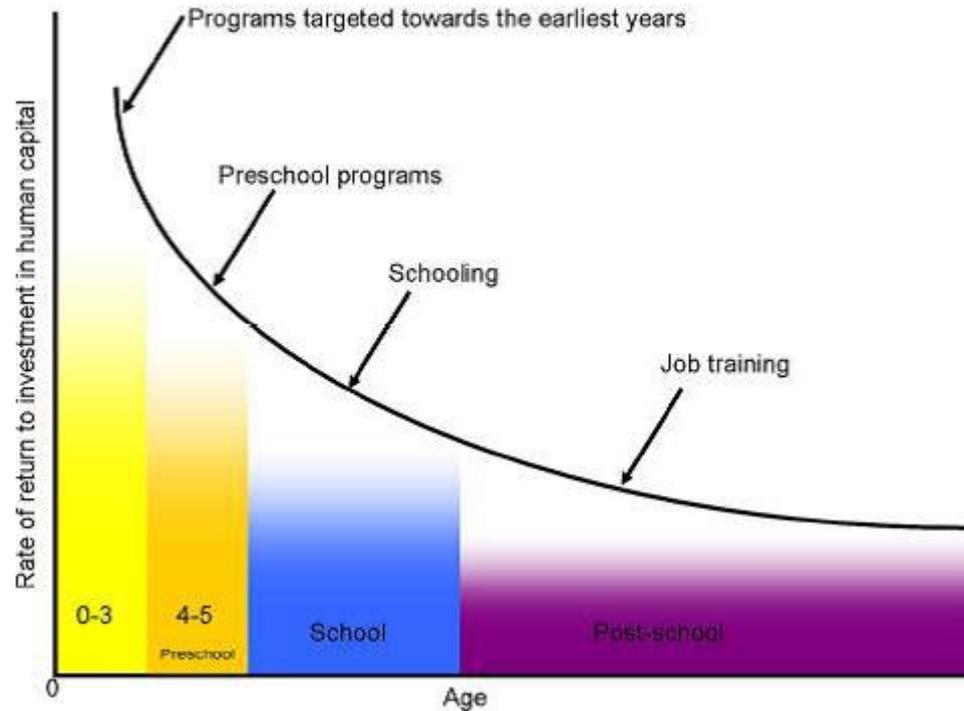
Investing Early

Early Childhood Development (ECD) - the foundation for the well-being of children, families, communities and the society in general.

Yet programmes and services for young children receive the lowest investments as compared to other age groups.

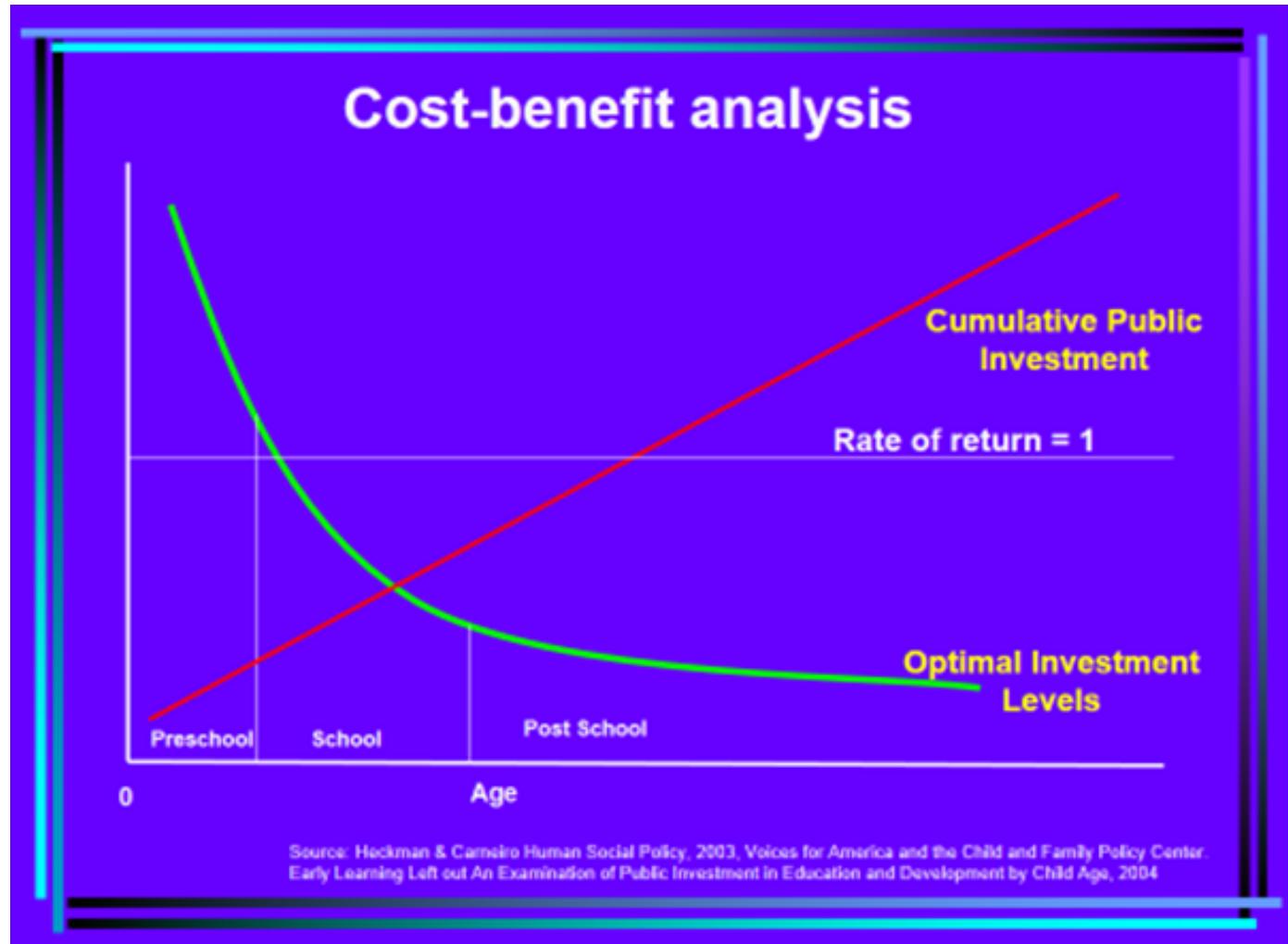
Early years services are often not accessible to the most disadvantaged children and families or are not of high quality.

Investing Early



Heckman's curve - Rates of return to human capital investments across all ages (Heckman, 2006)

Cost-Benefit Analysis



Need to Join Forces

Increased attention being paid to ECD by government, non-government and development partners in Europe and Central Asia (ECA).

However key regional ECD players have few opportunities to converge their comparative advantages and advocate for a shared vision of ECD in ECA.

About the Alliance

The **Early Years Regional Alliance** is a multi-partner forum which aims to catalyze a movement for Early Childhood Development in Europe and Central Asia.

Partners of the Alliance will advocate for increased access, equity, quality and investment in early childhood education and care.

A platform for coordination among development partners

An ally and resource for governments for promoting ECD.

Mission

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.

Goals

Influence policy through:

- Sharing information and knowledge
- Strengthening the capacity of partners and shared learning to advocate more effectively
- Advocacy campaigns and lobbying.

Partners will advocate for:

- Convergent, high quality and equitable services for young children and their families.
- Progressive realization of the rights of all the region's young children, especially those who are excluded and vulnerable

Partners

Founding Partners:



Partners:

More than 25 organizations expressed interest: OMEP, Eurochild, Roma Education Fund, European Parents Association, Aga Khan Foundation, SOS Kinderdorf etc.

Secretariat services:

Provided by ISSA



Activities

2013

- Capacity Building– training on advocacy
- A Theory of Change being developed
- Survey among partners of the Alliance -Report

2014

- Manifesto being developed
- Plan of action to be developed with partners
- Roundtables for key stakeholders (incl Ministries)
- Provide policy briefs on relevant ECD topics

Appeal

Partners of the Alliance urge governments represented on the **Open Working Group** to stress the importance of investing early and advocate to put Early Childhood Development at the heart of the new post-2015 development framework.

A movement for early childhood – nationally, regionally and internationally!

Manifesto

1. Early childhood is a public good and is furthered through the joint efforts of public, private and civil society institutions.
2. Young children thrive in nurturing, responsive, stimulating and safe family environments.
3. Building a society that welcomes and celebrates all children requires proactive ways of addressing exclusion, inequality, poverty and discrimination.
4. Early Childhood Intervention supports children with developmental difficulties in the earliest years and strengthens families.

Manifesto

5. High quality, coordinated and systemic professionalization in early childhood services ensures that each child's needs are properly addressed.
6. Services, professionals and stakeholders are most effective when they collaborate and coordinate.
7. Every public policy decision has implications for young children, their families and communities
8. High quality early childhood development services deserve a fair share of the public resources.

Join us!

Join us at the **2014 ISSA Conference**, where the Alliance will organize a special satellite event:



The banner features a green background on the left with the text "CREATING A SOCIETY FOR ALL" in large white letters, and "RE-CONSIDERING EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES" in smaller white letters below it. The right side has a purple background with "ISSA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE" in large white letters, and "10-12 OCTOBER 2014, BUDAPEST HUNGARY" in smaller white letters below it. To the right of the purple section is the ISSA logo (a stylized blue figure) and the text "INTERNATIONAL STEP by STEP ASSOCIATION". Further right, under the heading "PARTNERS:", are logos for "OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS", "unicef", a row of small icons, and "Partners Hungary Alapítvány". The bottom of the banner is a horizontal bar with nine colored segments: yellow, red, purple, pink, blue, green, yellow, orange, and blue.

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Thank you

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