

10 STEP ROADMAP TO ECI SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT

STEP 1 - DEFINE A CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK AND A NATIONAL STANDARD FOR ECI PRACTICE

Coherent theoretical and conceptual framework, according to the evidence-based practice, that recognizes:

- The way children learn at this age
- Role of early experiences, natural contexts and daily routines
- Role of families
- Transdisciplinary teamwork

STEP 3 - START WITH THE ALREADY EXISTING RESOURCES

Follow Arthur Ashes quote: "start where you are, use what you have, do what you can".

STEP 5 - DEFINE STAKEHOLDER'S SPECIFIC ROLES AND FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Health Involvement

- Primary Care
 - Screening, developmental assessment
 - Referral to ECI
 - Participation in ECI teams
- Secondary and tertiary care
- specialized assessment (interdisciplinary, diagnostic and therapeutic)

Education and Social Affairs

Define and agree in financial contributions of ministries and other stakeholders

STEP 6 - DEFINE A STRUCTURE AND ASSURE COORDINATION

- National Coordinating Committee
- Regional Coordinating Committees
- Supervision Teams
- Local ECI teams

STEP 8 - DEFINE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA AND ENSURE EFFECTIVE SCREENING, IDENTIFICATION AND REFERRAL AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE

Children between 0 and 6 years with:

1. Confirmed disability or established developmental delay
2. High risk of developmental delay (biological and/or environmental)

STEP 2 - ADOPT THE CONSENSUAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EUROPEAN AGENCY FOR SPECIAL NEEDS EDUCATION

- Availability,
- Proximity,
- Affordability,
- Interdisciplinary working,
- Diversity of services.

STEP 4 - IDENTIFY STAKEHOLDERS AND CREATE AN OFFICIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

- Central core of stakeholders - ministries of health, education and social services.
- Other stakeholders
 - parent's organizations
 - other civil society institutions and NGO's
 - Universities and academic experts

Official Planning Committee (plan and design the National or Regional ECI system)

- Identifying available:
 - human resources (different specialists and professionals),

- material resources, specially facilities,
- networks, partnerships
- training programs

- Develop a comprehensive strategy for ECI implementation
- Plan Local ECI teams (where, who, how)
- Supervision
- Define goals and objectives of each of the participants
- Define procedures and standards
- Define practical roles and regulations (future legislation)

STEP 7 - PLAN ECI TEAMS

- Community-based and hosted in a "regular" context (Health Center)
- Transdisciplinary teamwork
- Develop and implement IFSP's
- Transition Plan

STEP 10 - DEFINE QUALITY STANDARDS FOR ECI SERVICES

Evaluating

- Compliance with approved guidelines and standards
- outcomes,
- intervention conditions and practices,
- "accountability",
- Family Satisfaction.

Scales of Service Evaluation

STEP 9 - ASSURE PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION AND SUPERVISION

Basic Professional Training Program (inservice)

- A common core of content for all the professional involved
- A common conceptual framework
- Bodies of knowledge and skills, as well as values and philosophy
- Team-based training, ideally including families
- Continuous professional's support and supervision

Preservice training / Post graduation