

COMPETENCES AND STANDARDS: WHY DO WE NEED THEM FOR THE EARLY CHILDHOOD WORKFORCE?

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Dr. Mathias Urban is Desmond Chair of Early Childhood Education, and Director of the International Centre for Early Childhood Research at Dublin City University, Ireland (DCU). He works on questions of diversity and equality, social justice, evaluation and professionalism in working with young children, families and communities in diverse socio-cultural contexts.

Before joining DCU Mathias held the position of Froebel Professor of Early Childhood Studies and Director of the Early Childhood Research Centre at the University of Roehampton, London, United Kingdom.

From 2010 to 2011 he coordinated the European CoRe project (Competence Requirements in Early Childhood Education and Care). His current and recent projects include collaborative studies on early childhood professionalism in Colombia (Sistemas Competentes para la Atención Integral a la Primera Infancia), studies on Privatisation and on the impact of Assessment Regimes, and an 11-country project on Governance and Leadership for Competent Systems in Early Childhood. Mathias is an International Research Fellow with the Critical Childhood Public Policy Research Collaborative, a member of the PILIS research group (Primera Infancia, Lenguaje e Inclusión Social), Chair of the DECET network (Diversity in Early Childhood Education and Training), a member of the AERA special interest group critical perspectives on early childhood education. Mathias is the President of the International Froebel Society (IFS).