

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

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Dr. Mihaela Ionescu is an early childhood education expert, holding a BA in Education Sciences, a Master Degree in Management and School Administration and a doctorate in Education Sciences at the University of Psychology and Education Sciences in Bucharest. She has been working for the last 20 years in many capacities in the education field: primary school teacher; researcher; education policy developer – curricula for preschool education, early childhood national strategies, early childhood standards; trainer and manager of programs aiming to improve the quality of early childhood education and care services.

As the ISSA Program Director she is key in program strategic development and in implementing programs and coordinating the development of resources aimed at providing equitable and high quality early childhood services in countries from ISSA regions (Europe and Central Asia) and beyond. Over the years she has worked as international consultant for UNICEF and World Bank projects in countries of the CEE/CIS region, supporting governments to develop and implement quality standards for early childhood services and in-service training programs.