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INTESYS

INTESYS - *Introducing a new project*

Together – supporting
vulnerable children
through integrated
early childhood
services

MARCH 2016

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The (brand new) INTESYS project pilots new approaches that allow early childhood services across sectors to align and work in tandem especially for the benefit of marginalized children.

[A brief description of the INTESYS project](#)

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This newsletter shares information about INTESYS (Together – Supporting vulnerable children through integrated early childhood services), its activities and the four pilots that are part of its mandate.

[A brief description of INTESYS pilots](#)

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Visit the project webpage to download the INTESYS mapping reports and the INTESYS toolkit: www.intesys.be

INTRODUCTION: *brief description of INTESYS*

Quality integrated ECEC services are key to improving children's learning-outcomes in absolute terms and relative to other groups. For the most disadvantaged groups, high-quality early childhood services can make a tremendous difference in reducing the disparities in the learning outcomes. Currently, inequality in the ECEC systems in Europe has a strong impact on the most vulnerable groups: migrant children, Roma children, children with special needs and children living in poverty.

[Integration and alignment of services including poor and migrant families with young children](#) (Geinger et al, 2015), the background research paper drafted for the

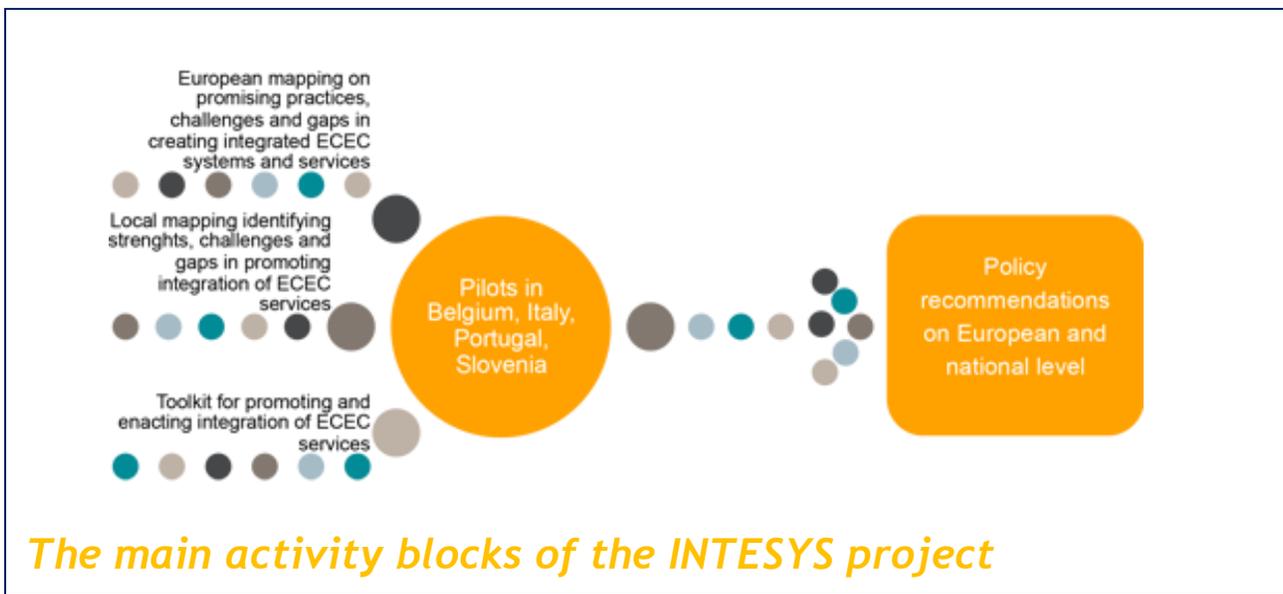
Transatlantic Forum on Inclusive Early Childhood meeting in January 2015, describes the current fragmentation of such services and the "counter movement of integration and networking in which care and education, early childhood and family support programmes, special needs and mainstream provision are combined in response to the demands of local communities in contexts of diversity".

INTESYS project focuses on piloting new approaches to Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) systems in Europe with a view to ensuring that children and families in vulnerable situations have access to high-quality ECEC provided by services that are

better integrated across the different sectors (education, health, welfare, etc.), professions and across age groups and governance levels.

INTESYS will respond to the European Quality Framework on ECEC (2014) by promoting integration:

- of different services: care, education, health, family/social services, employment, cultural, integration of migrants;
- between age-related services: transition between services for the unborn children/pregnant mothers, crèche, kindergarten/infant schools, and primary schools;
- of systems at different levels of public governance (local, regional and national).



IN SHORT: *brief description of INTESYS pilots*

BELGIAN PILOT

Coordinated by VBJK this pilot will serve as a first experience of partnership between the school system and community-based services. Read more details [here](#).

PORTUGUESE PILOT

A joint effort by Calouste Gulbenkian (CGF) and the Aga Khan Foundation (AFK) to scale-up the Olivais Sul ECD Centre to encompass a more integrated approach to reinforce interaction with the community and promote a closer contact with other services involved with families and children. Read more details [here](#).

SLOVENIAN PILOT

Coordinated by the Pedagoski Institut - Developmental Research Centre for Pedagogical Initiatives Step by Step be implemented in two traditional Romani settlements that have very low rates of Romani children enrolled in preschool education. Read more details [here](#).

ITALIAN PILOT

Coordinated by Compagnia San Paolo the pilot aims to deliver integrated training activities to practitioners and managers of services from different early childhood sectors while creating a shared understanding and responsibility among public and private institutions. Read more details [here](#).

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The INTESYS Consortium is led by the King Baudouin Foundation and is composed of nine partners bringing diverse and complementary expertise in the field of Early Childhood Education and Care.

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