

Conference of INGO of the Council of Europe

Committee on Education for Democracy

Webinar series

26th March 11:30 CET

Registration: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86758584416?pwd=1BsZZes3ebZeDB3zhagXbzdYAXNqTT.1>

The Role of the ECEC Sector

Agenda

11:30 Opening

Arja Krauchenberg, chairperson of the Committee on Education for Democracy

11:35 presentation of two good practice examples

Aljoša Rudas, *Program Manager*

International Step by Step Association, the Netherlands

Building on more than 30 years of the Step by Step program, ISSA harnesses and amplifies the collective expertise of educators who have been co-constructing child-centered, democratic early childhood classrooms across Europe and Central Asia. Through intentional quality interactions, shared decision-making, and environments that invite inquiry, young children are not just learning about democracy—they are living it. This transformative approach blurs the lines between teaching and participation, between structure and autonomy, shaping spaces where even the smallest voices are heard and valued. But what does it take to truly cultivate democracy from the earliest years? Let's explore!

12:25 Q&A

12:30 Discussion with the participants

12:55 Closing of the webinar

Please register at this link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86758584416?pwd=1BsZZes3ebZeDB3zhagXbzdYAXNqTT.1>

Aljoša Rudas is a program manager at the International Step by Step Association (ISSA), the early childhood regional network for Europe and Central Asia. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education and a Master's degree in Child Development. With over 15 years of experience, Aljosa has dedicated his career to working with and for young children, their families, and communities in various capacities within the field of early childhood. His expertise focuses primarily on issues related to quality and equitable early childhood programs and services for children under 6 years of age and their families, with extensive experience in program design, management, and implementation, as well as in knowledge brokering and creation aimed at translating theory into practice and determine long-lasting changes in children's learning environments. Aljoša's work portfolio includes contributions to innovative program design and facilitating professional development opportunities at the international level for various professionals working in the early childhood field. He designs and implements trainings and workshops for professionals and master trainers across Europe, covering a range of topics such as [Psychological First Aid](#), [Quality Pedagogy](#), [Child-centered methodology](#), and inclusive approaches to education in the early years, Aljosa coordinates ISSA's Europe-wide initiative, the [Romani Early Years Network](#), which promotes access to quality early childhood development for Roma children, professionalism in early years services, and better representation of Roma in the early childhood workforce. He is a vocal advocate for creating quality nurturing environments for all children, particularly for the most disadvantaged ones.

URLs:

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/arudas/>

ISSA's LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/issa-netherlands/posts/?feedView=all>

Website: <https://www.issa.nl/>