

# Results from Day 1

Emily Vargas-Barón

# **ECI Vision for All Children of Croatia**

- All elements were listed, and they should be considered for use in the ECI Strategic Plan
- A rich Vision Statement could be eventually developed, along with a strong Mission Statement

# Legal Basis for ECI

- Prepare an ECI Situation Analysis to:
  - map needs of children and parents
  - identify the numbers and types of services, trained human resources, training services, and amounts of funding sources for ECI
- Develop a Strategic Plan, with an implementable Action Plan
- Revise some laws, as needed
- Create new laws, bylaws, and protocols as needed

# Structural Issues

- Ensure ECI services are designed to provide nationwide coverage; expand services
- Focus on decentralization, with roles and responsibilities at all levels
- Organize ECI service support and horizontal and vertical coordination at all levels: national/central; regional; and local (county, municipal, village, community)
- Develop regional support centers for county/municipal services, with a focus on parent information as well as supporting ECI services (Websites? Other IT applications???)
- Use flexible models of service delivery - depending upon needs in villages and rural areas and islands - including mobile teams
- Develop strong advocacy systems to secure policy support, and ensure families feel supported, children are included in society, and are highly valued

# ECI Services - 1

- Ensure national-level registration and licensing of all organizations offering ECI services
- Develop a system of community outreach, child identification (Child Find), universal developmental screening, and effective referrals to ECI centers
- Train preschool teachers, nurses, patronage nurses and others to understand and conduct developmental screening
- Consider the development of uniform developmental assessments of children as well as family assessments (with the full participation of parents/family)
- Develop a national child registration and tracking system that is needed for the ECI system, with effective and private linkages to health, education and social welfare services (discussions needed)
- Coordinate all services so they come to the child in his/her natural environment to the extent possible, and the child is no longer carried to many different therapeutic services

# ECI Services - 2

- Work closely with physicians, NICUs and hospitals to ensure all fragile infants are identified and served as early as possible
- Link prenatal, neonatal screenings, diagnostics, neonatal/NICU services with all ECI services
- Create ECI service regulations (ECI Guidelines and Procedures)
- Ensure timely provision of services throughout Croatia (numbers of days between referrals and services, setting of dates for services, etc.)
- Establish ECI service standards
- Develop rights statements and training for ECI personnel guaranteeing child and parental rights and responsibilities to empower, protect parents
- Help all ECI service providers develop effective Transdisciplinary Teams with effective interdisciplinary communications and roles

# ECI Services - 3

- Provide regulations for center-based rehabilitation services to ensure good collaboration and service coordination with home-based ECI services AND/OR help center-based services to develop home-based ECI services in order to maintain effective rehabilitation medicine activities while expanding ECI services
- Ensure good transitions and parallel services between ECI services and
  - Inclusive initial education services
  - Inclusive preschool services
  - Inclusive primary school services
- Enable improved inclusive education services by means of developing an extended period of transition between ECI and inclusive education services
- Promote closer collaboration through horizontal and vertical coordination between and among the sectors through written formal agreements as well as informal arrangements
- Prevent institutionalization and help to deinstitutionalize children by means of providing ECI services with strong family support components

# Workforce Development - 1

- List of ECI specializations is required, including “key workers/early intervention specialists”
- Train current professionals in all disciplines in key ECI concepts, contents, methods and instruments/tools
- Consider additional training for patronage nurses to become either paraprofessional or professional ECI home visitors, working with Transdisciplinary Teams of professionals in ECI services
- Review national capacity in terms of trained specialists and then plan the future development of pre- and in-service training for ECI



# Workforce Development - 2

- Expand both pre- and in-service training, to focus on the promotion of continuous lifelong learning
- Develop a system of certification/licensing and recertification of ECI specialists
- Train selected leading ECI specialists to become supervisors (a) supervision (coaching, mentoring, reflective supervision); b) program monitoring and evaluation, including personnel performance evaluation; and c) on-site in-service training)
- Provide on-site supportive supervision of trained ECI patronage nurses
- Develop personnel standards based on development of above areas
- Provide opportunities for international training and study tours to effective ECI service in other nations (especially as a reward for excellent performance)

# Monitoring and Evaluation

- Ensure all programs are well and effectively monitored and evaluated
- Develop a national system of ECI monitoring and evaluation with core instruments and guides
- List key ECI input, output and outcome indicators, targets and dates for the achievement of targets in order to demonstrate the effectiveness of ECI services over time
- Develop research on ECI services and children's and families' status

# Financial Support

- Develop a system of sustainable governmental support
- Assist ECI centers to prepare proposals for funding, plan fundraising activities, and diversify their sources of funding support
- Provide scholarships for community-level ECI specialists and for paraprofessionals as well as professionals