

# Listening to young children

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## About *Listening to young children*

The “Listening to young children” project is pursuing:

- transfer and adaptation of learning solutions for vocational training in the educational sector based on innovative approach “Listening to young children” ,
- design and testing of a European course for teachers and trainers.

The project is aimed at:

- education sector trainers,

- professionals working directly with children aged 2-6.

The project has been funded with support from European Commission under the Lifelong Learning Programme and is planned for 24 months, from December 2010 to November 2012.

**Project is implemented by consortium:**

- Comenius Foundation for Child Development (Poland)
- Step by Step Program Foundation (Bulgaria)
- Society for the Development and Creative Occupation of Children (EADAP) (Greece)
- Institute for Language and Speech Processing "Athena" RC (ILSP) (Greece)
- ENOROS Consulting Ltd. (Cyprus)

**While the Associated partners are:**

- 2nd EPAL Aigaleo (Vocational High School) (Greece),
- Lions Infant and Child Care Centre of Strovolos Industrial Estate (Cyprus).

**Planned tangible outcomes of the project are following:**

- a multilingual, on-line course delivered by e-learning facilitating listening to young children by professionals.

**Project news**

- The course and user's manual are finalized – pilot training in Bulgaria has already started. We keep our fingers crossed!
- There is upcoming partners' meeting on **25- 27 June 2012** in **Sofia, Bulgaria**. We will discuss project activities and evaluate the process of course development.

**Contexts**

**Policies**

- On 17-19 May 2012 the 6th the Teacher Education Policy in Europe International Conference on ["Research, Policy and Practice in Teacher Education in Europe"](#) was held in Warsaw. The conference was aimed at discussion on bridging the gap between policy makers, practitioners and academics. In the section "Papers" you can find all materials from free to download.

**Practice**

- ICDI developed a universally applicable instrument, UPSI-5, that provides an indication of psychosocial [well-being of 5-year old children](#). At present, the health of children is assessed by a range of 'rough-and ready' indicators measuring either physical health (the infant mortality rate/IMR and under-five mortality rate/U5MR) or nutritional status (e.g. height-for-age, weight-for-height). As to psychosocial functioning of children there are no such indicators, however. Proxy markers exist, such as school attendance or achievement, but these say more about the environment in which children live than about children themselves. Existing

instruments designed to measure psychosocial functioning tend to be complex, time-consuming and/or ex-pensive. The new instrument has now been completed after field testing in six countries across all continents and consists of 29 questions that can be answered by 'yes' or 'no'. A copy of the UPSI-5 instrument and a fully referenced report are available on request.

- Charles Leadbeater writes about a research of 16 high-impact innovators in education around the world which provide many lessons to policymakers: [innovations often starts in "marginal" places](#) (e.g. Colombia, Pakistan, Turkey), seeking to increase access to education but also to make it more motivating.

## Contact

If you would like to find out more about the project or listening to young children methodology, please visit project website:

<http://www.welistenzy.eu>

or contact project coordinator:

### Comenius Foundation for Child Development

Barbara Röhrborn

[broehrborn@frd.org.pl](mailto:broehrborn@frd.org.pl)

ul. Flory 1/8, 00-586 Warszawa, Poland

Tel. +4822881580 Fax. +482288158

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