

# Project Brief

Country	Republic of Moldova
Project Title	<b>A Good Start in Life for Rural Children in Moldova (Phase II)</b>
Cooperation Partners	Step by Step Moldova, Ministry of Education, Local Public Administration, rayon-level Directorates for Education, Youth and Sports

**Background** Research says that children's long-term success in school derives from their learning experiences before school and the learning environment in the early school years. A smooth transition between these two settings increases the likelihood of continuous learning and reduces the incidence of fade out.

At the same time, schools and early years' service systems in Moldova fail to provide support to all children and families during the transition to school, which is particularly problematic for children from disadvantaged backgrounds. One major discontinuity is that between kindergarten and preschool on one side and school on the other side. Schools have to change its way of teaching, they have to get more child friendly.

For this, the becoming teachers have to be trained according to modern pedagogical approaches. The current initial teacher training is not responsive to the new demands for the teaching profession and is still very much entrenched in the traditional way of teaching.

**Project Description** **General objective:** To strengthen the quality education for young children throughout the whole period of early childhood development, including early primary school and to introduce this new teaching methodology in the initial teacher training in order to increase the systemic impact of the project.

The project will reach this objective through the following activities:

1. Strengthen the capacity of SBSM and its position to promote quality education for all kinds of young children through training and mentoring, but also to develop and apply assessment tools.
2. Assist 160 ECE teachers to support optimum growth and development of children in all developmental domains, and thus enhance school readiness.
3. Support the alignment of eight teacher colleges and five pedagogical faculties with the new methodology based on the child-centered paradigm and involve their staff in the work SBSM will do with the kindergartens and primary schools.
4. Raise greater public and professional awareness to the importance of the early childhood as a developmental period.
5. Building partnerships with ME, regional educational authorities and other donors to amplify the impact of project investment.

**Duration** May 2012 – May 2015

**Budget** 316'840 € (fully covered by LED)