

# Creating Early Childhood Intervention Together Building Bridges

Společnost pro ranou péči and The European Association on Early Childhood Intervention EURLYAD  
Prague, Czech Republic May 15-16, 2023

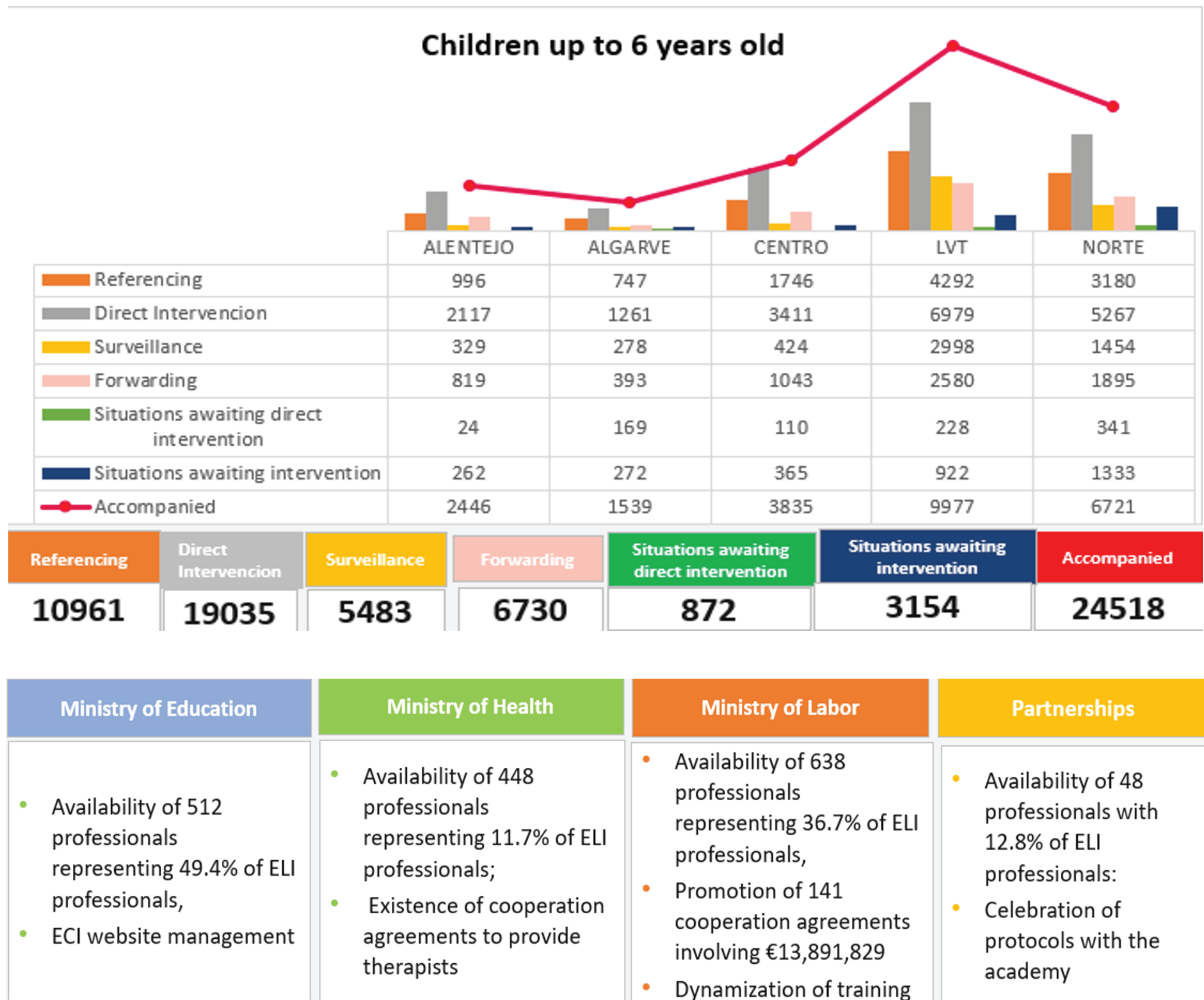
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## ECI system: framework and numbers

The Portuguese Early Childhood Intervention System (ECI) is an organized structure which covers children up to 6 years old with changes on body functions or structures that limit their ability to participate in typical activities of their respective ages and social contexts with a serious risk of jeopardizing their development. This system also covers the children's families in view of an intervention as early as possible on these situations. ECI, created in 2009 (Decreto-Lei n.º 281/2009), implements a set of integrated support measures focused on the child and their family, including actions of a preventive and rehabilitating nature and measures in the scope of education, healthcare, and social care, which guarantee the interaction between families and institutions. Healthcare measures are the first in line so that all cases can be identified and assigned in due time. ECI functions through the coordinated action of the Labor, Education, and Health Ministries, with their respective competences, integrated on the national Coordination Commission, five Regional Coordination Sub-Commissions (SCR) Technical Supervision Centers (NST), and the Local Intervention Teams (ELI) (which operationalize the support for children and their families. The intervention model implemented by the ELI embodies a work model with an interdisciplinary team, in network with the various entities/services/communities/families, in a systemic and collaborative perspective focused on the family, targeted to the capacitation of the critical subjects in the child's development.

### The Portuguese Early Childhood Intervention System numbers

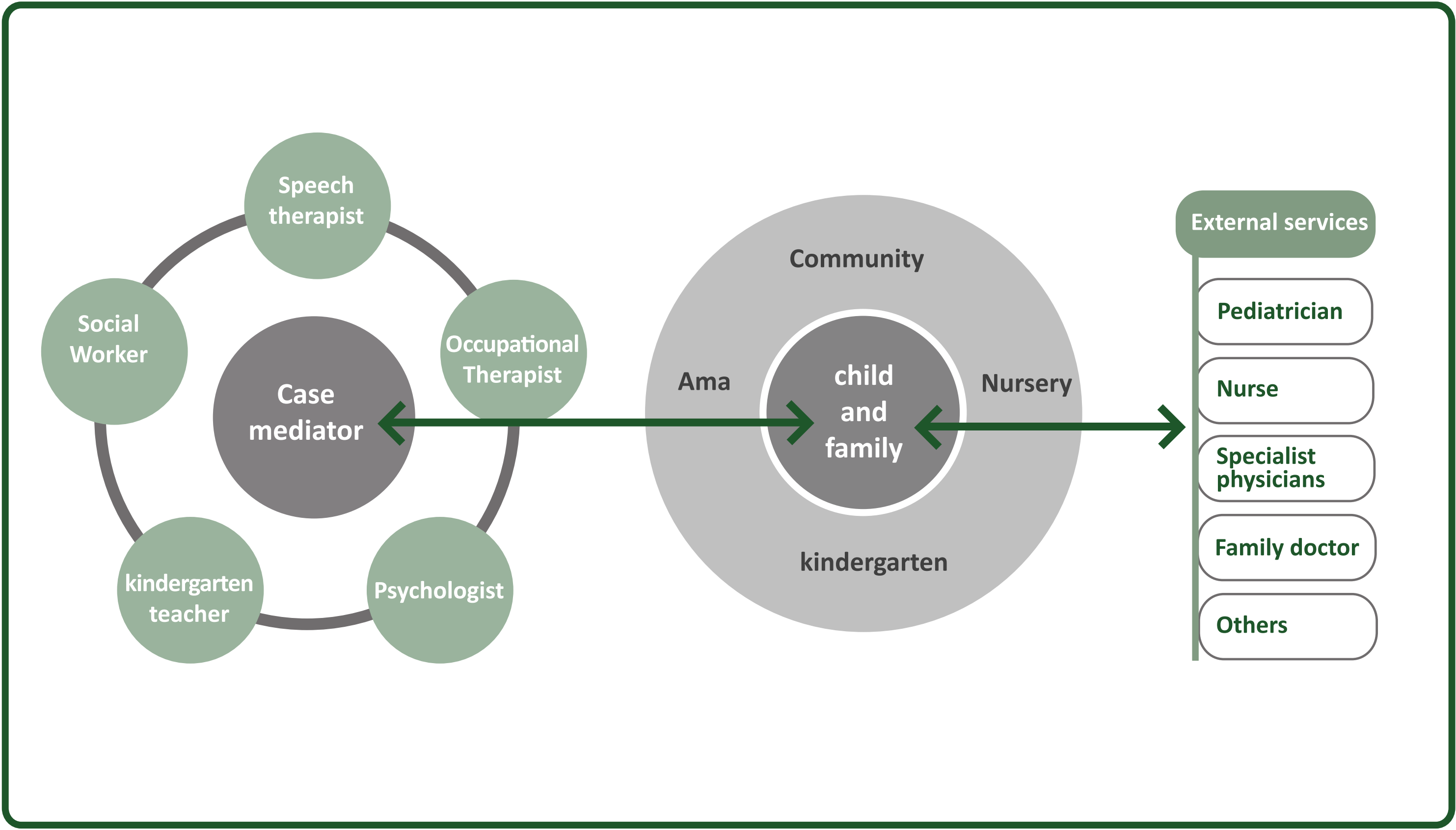
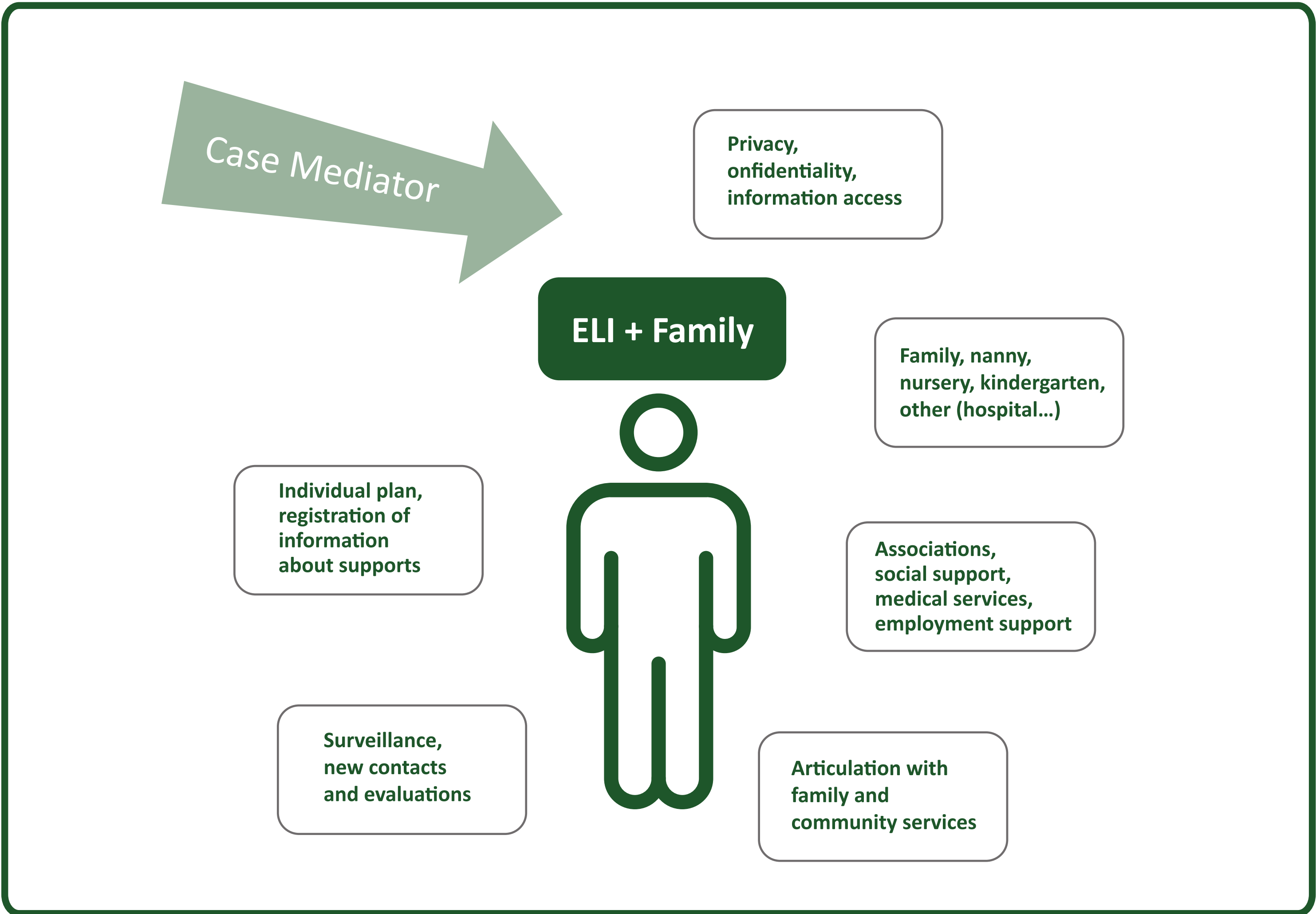


Source: Evaluation ECI Report 2021

## Early Childhood Intervention in Portugal: a retrospective of an integrated and interdisciplinary system

### ECI Goals

- To ensure the protection of children's rights and development of skills;
- To increase the quality of children's learning opportunities;
- To strengthen the competences of caregivers;
- As a starting point, the objectives are defined together with the family and the intervention is carried out in usual children's environments (at home, nursery, kindergarten) during their daily routines and activities, in order to promote the participation of the children in learning experiences;
- To support families in the access to the social security, health and education system's services and resources



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