

# Comparing Early Childhood Intervention Policies and Practices in European Countries – The Use of Recommended Practices



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## Introduction:

This case study project intends to gather information on the use of Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) Recommended Practices in seven different countries – Portugal, Spain, Iceland, Germany, Greece, Serbia, and Finland.

## Recommended Practices: (Dunst et al., 2014)

- Family and Children are at the centre of the intervention;
- Intervention in the child's natural environment
- Transdisciplinary teams with the active participation of the family in all stages of the process
- Individualized intervention plan, based on children's and families' needs and priorities
- Aims to promote the child's development and the capacitation and empowerment of the family

## Research question:

Do European countries have ECI policies and practices that respect the recommended practices?

## Study Goals:

- Identifying the existence of laws or official policies relating to ECI in each European country and their content;
- Recognizing what kind of ECI services or programs exist in each European country;
- Describing how the process of ECI works in each European country;
- Understanding what knowledge professionals and policy makers have regarding the recommended practices;
- Identifying the role of families in the ECI process in each European country;
- Identifying the type of training and professional development ECI professionals have;

## Qualitative Methodology - Comparative Case Study

<u>35 Participants</u> – 5 from each country: - 2 ECI Practitioners - 2 Families - 1 Stakeholder or Policy Maker	<u>Instruments:</u> - Official policy documents and laws from each country; - 3 semi-structured interview script	<u>Data Analysis:</u> - Content data analysis from the interviews and official policy documents and law decrees from each country.
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## Expected Results:

- Understanding if there is coherence between research and practices at different levels: macro, meso and micro systems.
- Understand if there is a coordination among different ministries/services in ECI
- What is the professional preparation for ECI

## Contributions:

- Broader knowledge of ECI Practices in European Countries
- Raising awareness about the importance of professional development for quality practices in ECI