SUMMARY OF STRATEGY OPTIONS TO TACKLE CHALLENGES IN ENGAGING COMMUNITIES

Challenge 1: Lack of awareness and motivation

- Making community engagement a policy priority, an obligation or right
- Providing public financial resources to engaged communities
- Engaging the community in an advisory or management body for ECEC policies and services
- Engaging communities as providers of ECEC
- Engaging communities as volunteers to the centre
- Encouraging private foundations to support ECEC centres
- Offering qualifications and employment opportunities for local communities
- Embedding community engagement in a wider evaluation process

Challenge 2: Communication and outreach

- Training staff on how to engage communities
- Using written forms of dissemination
- Having one central information system or contact point
- Organising meetings

Challenge 3: Dysfunctional communities

- Reinforcing co-operation between ECEC and other social services
- Developing community child care centres in the target areas
- Targeting low socio-economic neighbourhoods

Challenge 4: Co-operation with other services and other levels of education

- Integrating child care and early education at the municipality level for more coherent services
- Encouraging co-operation between ECEC and primary school for smooth transition
- Bridging between ECEC centres and different community services
- Developing a network to promote early child development and well-being