

CATALYSING CHANGE:

How Places to Grow Shapes Tomorrow Through Early Childhood Development

"Supporting Children, Transforming Tomorrow"

KEY FACTS ABOUT ECD

"INVESTING IN CHILDREN IS INVESTING IN SOCIETY."

James Cairns, Senior Director for Strategic Engagements and Organizational Learning, Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University

The first 1,000 days of life are critical in shaping a child's health, education, and future contributions to society.

The cost of inaction is high. [The Lancet \(2017\)](#) reports that failing to invest in ECD can result in a 25% income loss per individual and cost countries up to twice their current health expenditures.

The return on investment is undeniable. The [Heckman curve \(2023\)](#) reveals that every \$1 invested in ECD generates between \$6 and \$17 in economic returns.

Beyond economics, ECD strengthens health systems, democracy, and climate resilience. Recognized as a key driver of the [United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals](#), **ECD is a powerful lever for systemic change.**

OVERVIEW

[Holis Lab](#) is a systems catalyst agency that fosters collective action and drives meaningful impact on complex social challenges. As an innovation and growth partner of Porticus and coordinator of [Places to Grow](#) (P2G), Holis helps strengthen early childhood systems in the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Slovakia.

P2G serves as a catalyst for excellence in early childhood development (ECD), education, and care. Through national platforms, peer-learning events, Joint Action Fund projects, and cross-sectoral collaboration, it builds more integrated, accessible services and a shared sense of responsibility. By bridging divides and empowering communities, P2G lays the groundwork for breaking cycles of poverty and ensuring every child can reach their full potential.

HOW HAVE WE BEEN DRIVING CHANGE IN ECD IN THE REGION?

Catalysing systemic change through building trust, collaboration, and collective action.

Strengthening the regional ECD ecosystem for greater impact.

Bridging sectors to create integrated, accessible services.

Empowering ECD networks through evidence-based learning and collaboration.

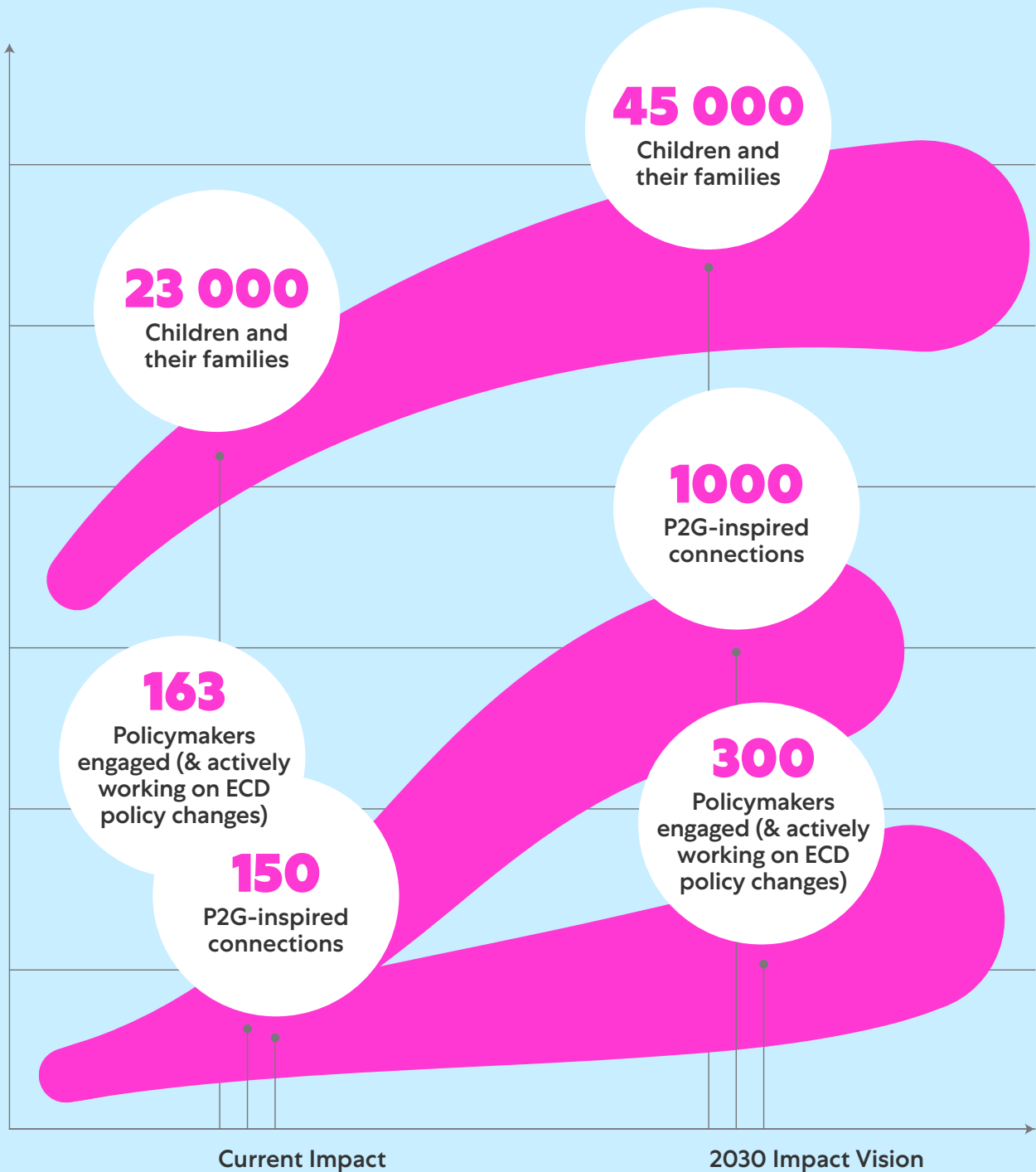
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PLACES TO GROW OVERALL IMPACT



CALL TO ACTION

Want to support this work? Join us in building a stronger future for children and communities.

Contact us:
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