

**Dr. Mmantsetsa Marope**

**Director of UNESCO’s International Bureau of Education (IBE)**

Dr. Mmantsetsa Marope is the Director of UNESCO’s International Bureau of Education (IBE) in Geneva, Switzerland. She holds a Ph.D. in Education from the University of Chicago, a MA in Education from Pennsylvania State University, and a BA from the University of Botswana and Swaziland. Her professional career includes: 11 years university professorship; 10 years at the World Bank; 10 years in the United Nations; extensive advisory and consultancy services for governments, regional economic communities, regional research networks, ministries of education, bilateral and multilateral agencies; managing international research capacity development networks; and the civil service.

In recent years, she gained eminence as a global thought leader on the future of education and learning; the future of education and jobs; and future competences all global citizens require to thrive in rapidly changing 21st century work and life contexts. She is an avid advocate for closer engagement with the private sector, especially the technology sector, and the science sector in shaping the future of education, and in shaping the future through education. She continues to lead global intellectual dialogue on ensuring that education and learning systems attain and sustain credible scientific underpinning, future development-relevance; agility to adapt; equitable quality; resource efficiency; technology-savvy; and sustainability. She strongly holds that these parameters of education and learning systems are an inescapable foundation for broad-based and future-responsive human resources development, and for the long-term human capital accumulation required to assure every global citizen holistic development, and ultimately, fulfillment.

Dr. Marope calls for stronger private sector engagement in the transformation of education and learning systems into life-long-learning systems in their own right before they can be counted on to develop effective life-long-learners who are ready for unpredictable futures. She holds that such transformation demands 21st century education and learning systems to have capacity for: better use of science, technology, and big data to guide their futures; rigorous systemic diagnostics; research; foresight; and constant self-renewal. The transformation also demands normative and operational tools, as well as enabling institutional landscapes than currently exist. Dr. Marope works relentlessly to develop normative and operational tools required to support the transitioning of education and learning systems into the 21st century. These include systemic diagnostic tools, system prototypes, new global norms and standards, and futuristic models. In future, she seeks to intensify engagement with the private sector, and foundations in convening and mobilizing global talent and intellectual pool; as well as the political, technical, technological, moral, ethical, and financial capital required to create institutions that can enable future transformation of education and learning systems.

Throughout her career, Dr. Marope has built extensive experience at all levels and types of education, learning, and training systems. She is also highly experienced in the knowledge creation, brokerage and management required to underpin system transformation. Her publications cover a wide range of areas including: global norms and standard setting tools; system diagnostic tools; system prototypes; all sub-sectors of education, learning, and training systems; future global competences; education and development; capacity development; and award winning Setswana novels.



**Cristian Fabbi**

**President at Istituzione Nidi e Scuole dell'Infanzia del Comune di Reggio Emilia**

**Senior Expert for early childhood care and education in UNESCO**

Cristian Fabbi is the President at Istituzione Nidi e Scuole dell'Infanzia del Comune di Reggio Emilia - Reggio Emilia Approach in Reggio Emilia Area, Italy. His fields of expertise are early childhood. early childhood care and education, strategic planning, educational project, adult education, union negotiation, purchasing, government liaison, team building, children policies and childcare assessment.

He also works as the senior expert of early childhood care and education in UNESCO, which mainly do international consultancy to develop and implement action plans and programmes for Early Childhood Care and Education in GEQAF countries. The program continues with the creation of prototype of Early Childhood Care and Education Policies.

At the same time, he is the International consultant on child friendly cities in UNICEF and the board member in Reggio Children.

What’s more, he is the director of Progettinfanzia Bassa Reggiana, charged with Public association managing preschools and schools quality project in Reggio Emilia Province district.And he provides consultancy for a handover project about pre-primary and primary education in Caritas Schweiz, the Republic of Kosovo.

Throughout his career, Cristian Fabbi has been committed to children’s education.



**Ms Simona POPA**

**Programme Specialist in charge of the IBE publications**

Simona Popa works as the Programme Specialist in charge of the IBE publications, including Prospects, Educational Practices series and the IBE book series on curriculum and related matters. She holds a Ph.D. in comparative education from the University of Pittsburgh and Master's degrees in international development education and comparative literature. Since 2007, she has been the managing editor of Prospects.

Prior to working at the IBE, Ms Popa was the managing editor of the Comparative Education Review, and taught graduate courses in comparative and international education and education and development at Drexel University. Her research interests include curriculum reforms in developing and transition countries, teachers’ work, private tutoring and, more recently, brain research and learning.

In 2014, she was awarded the Distinguished Service Award from the Institute for International Studies in Education (IISE), for her contribution to comparative, international and development education.