

## **Biographical Note**

### ***Maria Gabriella Lay***

Maria Gabriella Lay serves as a Programme Manager in the Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour of the International Labour Organization, the United Nations specialized agency which seeks the promotion of social justice and internationally recognized human and labour rights. She is responsible for the *“Global Campaign to Raise Awareness and Understanding on Child Labour”*, aimed at mobilizing key sectors of society in the fight against child labour. Her belief in the importance and richness of children’s creativity and participation and the role of youth empowered in social mobilization action, lead her to the creation of a large-scale programme named SCREAM - Supporting Children’s Rights through Education, the Arts and the Media – which is now translated in 20 languages and active in every continents. SCREAM, which has been developed with young people for young people and adults, is an education and social mobilization community-based initiative designed to be used by educators, in non-formal and formal settings, to cultivate young people’s understanding of human rights, gender equality, social dimension of globalisation and social justice issues and to place the subject of child labour in the broader context of education and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Because of its far-reaching impact, SCREAM has helped shape policies in national education systems, champion inclusive education, and concretely combat the social exclusion and exploitation of the poorest.

She holds advanced degrees in Education.