

ICEC Conference

Reducing access barriers in Early Childhood Education and Care: International perspectives on local governance

22nd – 23rd October 2019

Hotel Aquino, Berlin

Abstract & CV

Redesign of childcare allocation procedures – Comparing approaches and experiences

Dr Joachim Fiebig, Local Government Association for Youth and Social (KVJS), Baden-Württemberg

One of the biggest challenges in steering the allocation and planning of ECEC places is the registration of parental needs and demands. Not only the “locality” of registration (directly at the ECEC-centre or at the municipal administration), but also the specific mode of registration (analogous or digital) has an impact on meeting their demands. Until now, the registration of demands takes place in an unsystematic and non-digital way in many municipalities. Both clearly complicates steering the allocation and planning of places. Especially digital reservation tools offer the advantage of multilingual and low-threshold usage. Therefore, it is more likely for families of disadvantaged background and/or families, which do not speak the local language, to voice their need of care. The software tool “Zentrale Vormerkung” (*central reservation*) by the Local Government Association for Youth and Social (KVJS) in Baden-Württemberg helps to solve these problems and is available for both public and private non-profit providers of youth welfare services. Considering the software’s modular concept, it is possible to adjust it to the actual local conditions. For that reason, it is applied to municipalities with roughly 5.000 to 300.000 inhabitants. Feedback is thereby unfailingly positive. To optimize the allocation process, the KVJS currently cooperates with the Leibniz Centre of European Economic Research (ZEW) in Mannheim to develop a complementary software solution.

Dr Joachim Fiebig is responsible for the coverage of ECEC services at the department of youth welfare services at the Local Governments’ Association for Youth and Social Welfare (KVJS) in Baden-Württemberg. He graduated from social sciences at the University of Mannheim and was research associate of Prof Hartmut Esser.