

ICEC Conference

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

22nd – 23rd October 2019

Hotel Aquino, Berlin

Simultaneous workshops* International and national examples

Workshop A

'Just' ways into the ECEC system? Allocation of places and local steering

(Commentator: Prof Sabine Bollig, University Trier)

Efficient and fair? Governing access through the allocating of ECEC places in Sweden

Linda Ekstrand, Sollentuna Municipality, Sweden

Redesign of childcare allocation procedures – Comparing approaches and experiences

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

Tobias Riehm, Leibniz Centre for European Economic Research (ZEW), Mannheim

In the workshop, local approaches and procedures for the registration and the allocation of ECEC places will be discussed. The following questions will be addressed:

Which mechanisms and criteria are known and applied for the registration and allocation of places? Who is disadvantaged by which registration procedures and allocation regulations? How do inequalities occur due to existing mechanisms of registration and allocation of places?

The discussion is based on two local case studies from Sweden and Germany. The practical experiences made within these countries concerning existing and newly implemented procedures for the allocation of places will be reflected from different perspectives. A focus is on practice-relevant steering aspects, such as the required time and resources for allocation processes, the need for efficient coordination and a fair and equitable allocation practice.

The aim is to identify the criteria that enable a fair and efficient way into the ECEC system based on scientific findings and practical experiences in international comparison.

** Please note that you have to choose one workshop to participate in. Registration for the workshops will be open the first conference day.*

Workshop B

Needs-based provision through networking? Approaches in developing integrated services

(Commentator: Daniela Kobelt Neuhaus, Karl Kübel Foundation for Child and Family, Bensheim)

Integrated working in the ECEC context: Local examples from different countries

Dr Hester Hulpia, Centre for Innovation in the Early Years (VBJK), Ghent, Belgium

The German Federal Programme on ECEC access (*Kita-Einstieg*): Evaluation and local practice

Maike Hoefft, Paderborn University
Christiane Börühan, AWO Berlin Spree-Wuhle

The workshop discusses the potential of local integration in order to ensure adequate and low-threshold access conditions to ECEC services. A key issue will be what kind of collaboration of which stakeholders is needed to facilitate access of families from disadvantaged backgrounds. Therefore, it is of interest, for example, how early childhood education and care can be embedded in existing concepts of tackling poverty and fostering social integration. In that respect, we will discuss strategies and experiences of integrating local services, based on the following questions:

What are opportunities and challenges of different approaches of integrated working? To what degree is targeting necessary and helpful? How can we establish structures of long-term collaboration to, on the one hand, reduce access barriers for families and, on the other, create benefits for the ECEC centres based on their resources?

Together with experts, we will discuss recent developments and practices of integrating services in different countries.

Workshop C

Affordable and socially fair? Different approaches of financing ECEC

(Commentator: Dr Ludovica Gambaro, German Institute for Economic Research (DIW), Berlin)

Overcoming financial access barriers through subsidies? Approaches of the Canadian ECEC System

Martha Friendly, Childcare Resource and Research Unit, Toronto, Canada

Needs-based allocation of resources in ECEC – Examples from North Rhine-Westphalia

Dr Katarina Groth and Dr Kristine Blatter, German Youth Institute, Munich

The workshop focuses on different models of funding ECEC systems. The following questions will be discussed:

How are financing systems of ECEC organised? What criteria are applied when allocating financial resources? Who benefits from current funding mechanisms, who is disadvantaged (by that)? How can unequal access conditions be reduced in terms of financing ECEC systems? What are local strategies to improve access through financing? Local examples from Germany and Canada will feed into the discussion.

The workshop aims at identifying possible access barriers based on funding systems and mechanisms with a special emphasis on the role of local governance.

Furthermore, tensions between accessibility, high quality and a 'fair' distribution of funding responsibilities between various stakeholders (national, regional and municipal governance, providers, services and families) will be investigated.