

DIFFERENT WAYS, ONE GOAL?

International approaches to quality:
regulation and assurance in early childhood



Data usage at all levels: how monitoring quality contributes to policy making and innovations in practice

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The presentation will give an overview of the Norwegian system for ensuring and developing quality in ECEC. Placing the child in kindergarten at the center, this contribution will focus on data and research as a basis for dialogues and actions to promote quality on all levels. The Norwegian Directorate of Education and Training have just finalized work on the national system for Quality in Kindergartens (QIB). QIB is now being implemented throughout the Norwegian kindergarten sector. The system includes data and indicators as well as tools for quality improvement to be used both in kindergartens and by local providers of ECEC and authorities. Monitoring quality through the use of data and research are vital for making informed decisions and for enabling good quality practices. Parents are supported to make informed choices about where to bring their children, but openly available information and indicators should also constitute a more solid ground for parents' active involvement in the quality dialogue. The capacity to use and interpret data and findings are crucial for data collection, documentation, and dialogues in order to affect quality positively. By drawing on the experiences from both national and international contexts, the presentation will touch upon challenges, pitfalls, and possibilities in monitoring systems.

Tove Mogstad Slinde is a Senior Adviser in the Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research in the Department of Early Childhood Education and Care. She is the elected Chair of the Network of Early Childhood Education and Care in OECD since 2012. In the Ministry of Education and Research Tove Mogstad Slinde has been working on policy development on topics related to quality in ECEC, such as curriculum, staff competencies, governance, research and developmental work. Ms. Slinde has worked within the ECEC sector in Norway on different levels since 1987. Among other things, she has been working with management and developmental work and the implementation of national policies on the regional and local levels. This has entailed cooperating closely with municipalities, kindergarten owners and other relevant institutions and stakeholders including teacher education and staff organizations. Representing the Department of ECEC in international cooperation, she has been involved in the work of the OECD ECEC network (since 2008), as well as the Thematic Working Group on Early Childhood Education and Care in EU. She has also been engaged in the advisory committee for the research project CARE, funded by the EU.