

# POLICY CONSEQUENCES OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL SERVICE PROVISION IN THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE SECTOR

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## INTRODUCTION

- The Norwegian ECEC sector is 50% privatized
- ECEC reaches almost all children 1-6
- Non-govt ecec: a mixed group
- Overall question: how does non-governmental service provision affect ECEC policies?
- Preliminary findings from interviews

- Current research: the effects in the final implementation (better marketing? more efficient? more satisfied parents?)
- Governance perspective
  - The entire policy making process?
  - About more than efficient implementation?

## SOME FINDINGS

- Relations beyond the implementation stage
  - Nationally
  - Locally
    - Local governments are in or out
    - Local governments develop ECEC policies in different ways – or hardly at all
    - Close, negotiated networks with private centers - or not.

- The agenda of public-private relations
  - Financial-practical aspects of implementation
  - But also policy making
    - Nationally.
    - Local negotiations, projects, policy profiles/priorities, D&R projects

- In the absence of tight public-private coordination: Non governmental ECEC centers owners develop different educational profiles
  - Less language, more outdoor activities
  - Religion
  - Multiculturalism
  - Local freedom-or strict standardisation
  - Parental influences and ad hoc educational projects

## CONCLUDING REMARKS

- Non-governmental service providers are involved at national and local levels beyond being implementing agents.
- Concerned with implementation – and policy contents
- Where coordination is low: educational choices
- A complex, decentralised policy network → policy variation.