

IAS – Increasing Accessibility of integrated ECEC-services to support all families with young children

1 Timing

24 months : 01/12/2018 - 30/11/2020

2 Aim

The aim of IAS is to exchange ideas and inspiring practices between policy, practice and research on improving accessibility of integrated services for (vulnerable) families with young children. The exchange of ideas and inspiring practices happens on different levels:

(1) Relation professional/services – families:

- Support professionals to embrace diversity and to handle sensitive to all kinds of families (e.g. by creating open meeting places);
- Increase the competences of professionals to interprofessional collaboration and leadership to work participative with families in a context of diversity;
- Support the social work approach as a framework to empower families;
- Integration of multiple services (e.g., social, health, ECEC, NGO) in order to respond to the needs of families.

(2) Role Policy Makers:

- Support policy makers in looking for relevant indicators and outcome results on an improved accessibility of integrated services, taking the families and their perspectives into account;
- Guarantee the effectiveness of the services, in the way that they are accessible for all.

IAS wants to elaborate these two levels on local, national and European level.

IAS provides a network of policy makers, practitioners and researchers in:

- Belgium (Flanders),
- Finland,
- Norway,
- Slovenia,
- Poland.

IAS aims for developing and sharing expertise between policy makers, practitioners and researchers in Belgium, Poland, Finland, Slovenia, and Norway on the general topic “integrated services and accessibility”, and specifically on:

- The importance of creating open meeting places (family centers and hosting in public spaces, street work) in order to reach (out to) (underprivileged) families.
- Interprofessional collaboration and leadership as crucial aspects of how well the family centers function.
- The social work approach as a framework to empower families and the realisation of social rights.
- Integrating social, health and early childhood education services and NGO actors in order to respond to needs of diverse families and children.

3 Design

(1) Developing a shared vision and framework

(2) Document analyses and focus groups

In each partner country, document analyses on relevant practice and policy documents and focus groups are held with practitioners, policy makers, researchers focusing on accessibility and integrated working in general, and the above mentioned topics in specific. In these focus groups the context, the state of play and the future plans are discussed.

(3) International IAS meetings

In each country a 3 day meeting (called the IAS-meeting) is organized, combining study visits to inspiring practices, with discussion and working tables on a theme linked to the above mentioned topics.

Proposal for IAS-meetings:

Timing	Country	Topic
21-23/01/2019	Belgium	Kick-off: vision and framework; timing and planning
May 2019	Poland	The social work approach as a framework to empower families and the realization of social rights.
October 2019	Finland	Integrating social, health and early childhood education services and NGO actors in order to respond to needs of diverse families and children.
April/May 2020	Slovenia	The importance of creating open meeting places (family centers and hosting in public spaces, street work) in order to reach (underprivileged) families.
October 2020	Norway	Interprofessional collaboration and leadership as very important aspects of how well the family centers function.

(4) IAS platform

The explorations, discussions and reflections on the context, the state of play and the future plans of integrated working in each country provides input for the online IAS-platform, with

inspiring practices and recommendations for policy and practice at local, national and European level.

More specifically the online IAS-platform consists of

- The shared vision and framework on accessibility of integrated working.
- An overview of the country reports with document analyses on relevant practice and policy documents and the input of the focus groups.
- Recommendations on three levels: for policy, research and practice.
- An overview of inspiring practices in the different contexts.
- Links to interesting international websites, documents,...

The main strengths of this design are:

- Involvement of different actors: researchers, practitioners, policy makers – variety of partners each with valuable expertise;
- Different types of integrated working.

4 Tasks and responsibilities

For some tasks a partner is assigned as coordinator:


- Kind en Gezin (Belgium) is responsible for the general project coordination of IAS;
- VBJK (Belgium) coordinates the development of guidelines for the document analyses and the focus groups;
- THL (Finland) coordinates the dissemination of IAS;
- University of Torun (Poland) and Mala Ulica (Slovenia) coordinate the IAS-platform;
- Tromsø University (Norway) coordinates the evaluation of IAS.

Next, each partner is responsible for the IAS-meeting with study visits and working tables in their country. This implies:

- The preparation: searching and supporting inspiring practices, preparing a country guide, but also practical issues.
- The set up: working methods, the input, ...
- The follow up: the report of the IAS meeting, input for the IAS-platform with inspiring practices from all participants, and policy and practice recommendations.

At the kick off (21-23/01/2019) the tasks and responsibilities will be discussed and fine-tuned.

5 Partners

Land	Partner	Contact persoon	Other involved persons	A little information on the partner (summarized from the project proposal)	Main responsibility in IAS
Belgium	Kind & Gezin	Tine Rommens	Rudy De Cock, Christele Van Nieuwenhuyzen, Kathy Jacobs, Nele Travers, Kirsten De Saeger, ...	<p>Kind & Gezin (Child & Family) is a Flemish governmental agency with responsibility for young children and families in Flanders. This Flemish agency is located in Brussels. Its main task is to implement government policy for young children and for families with young children, in particular in the fields of preventive care, child care services, family support, diversity and children's rights. https://www.kindengezin.be/algemeen/english-pages.jsp</p> <p>EXPOO is a team in Child & Family and is the Flemish Government's expert centre for parenting en family support. http://www.expoo.be/english-pages</p> 	general project coordination
	VBJK	Hester Hulpia	Sandra Van der Mespel	<p>VBJK is an innovation and expertise centre for the early years. VBJK is an autonomous NGO, established in 1986 and recognized as a research centre by the Federal Belgian Government. It works both nationally as well as internationally. Take a look at https://vbjk.be/en and discover some of our projects.</p>	Development of guidelines for document analyses & focus groups
Finland	THL – National Institute for Health and	Marjatta Kekkonen	Paivi Lindberg, Ulla Lindqvist	The National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL) is a governmental research and development institute under the Finnish Ministry of Social Affairs and Health. THL seeks to serve the broader society in addition to the scientific community, actors in	dissemination

	Welfare			<p>services and NGOs as well as decision-makers in central government and municipalities.</p> <p>The functions of THL are to promote the welfare and health of the population, to prevent diseases and social problems and to develop social and health services. THL pursues and carries out its objectives by means of research, development activities, official tasks, steering through information as well as international co-operation.</p> <p>Number of staff in THL is over thousand, however a minor part of the staff is working with child and family issues.</p> <p>THL has a large experience in the development of ECEC and family services. Child, Adolescent and Family Services Unit (CAF) is responsible for study and development of child and family services, including the family center service model. The CAF -unit is a multidisciplinary research unit with experts on the fields of maternity and child health care services, school health care, social services for families, welfare services and prevention of violence. Unit carries out regularly a national school health care survey, a national survey for families with a four year old child and four months old child. In addition, monitoring of maternity services, evaluation of a systemic child protection working model and a register based studies are carried out in CAF –unit.</p> <p>At present, development of the family centre model is based on the key project of the government led by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health; The Programme to Address Reform in Child and</p>	
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				<p>Family Services, abbreviated LAPE-Programme (2015 -2018). The aim of the programme is to change the working culture of services by strengthening children’s rights and a knowledge-based approach and to develop child- and family-oriented services. One mean is to reorganize all services for children and families by integrating a) low-threshold services to family centers and , b) specialized services and c) intensive services to larger units. Principles guiding the reform include children’s rights and best interests, strengthening families’ own resources, child and family-centredness, and taking into account the diversity of families. Participation and involvement of children, young people and parents is an overarching principle to be taken into account on all levels of the programme implementation.</p> <p>A 'Family centre' is defined as a low-threshold multiprofessional service unit and network, which integrate universal maternity and child health care services, social services for families, ECEC services and targeted support. Development work based on the guidelines will be implemented nationally in 18 regions.</p>	
Slovenia (Ljubljana)	Mala Ulica	Eva Strmljan Kreslin	Duši Kumer, Manca Kaliman, Ines Zagoranski	<p>Founded by the City of Ljubljana Established to run family centres in Ljubljana. In 2013 the first Family centre was opened, yearly we have more than 24,000 visitors. open every day, from 10am to 7pm (weekends and holidays till 6pm). The basic goal is to support families with pre-school children in the broadest sense – to offer a place to play and for children and</p>	IAS-platform

				parents to socialise, child care, counselling to parents plus education on the care and upbringing of children and courses in preparing for childbirth.	
Poland (Torun)	Nicolaus Copernicus University – Faculty of education – Department of Social Work – Centre for Family Research	Jarostaw Przeperski	Katarzyna Kuziak, Bazyli Jarostaw Cendrowicz, Agata Skibinska, Adam Szponka	His work is focused on family support, reintegration of family and integrated support and care for families with children. He was an expert in the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Policy pilot project called: “Schemes STOP! Integration of social work and labor institutions in local communities”. He is responsible for developing a new approach to integration of activities for families in local communities based on large number of stakeholders (also users – families). During the project in 18 communities (39 were engaged) started kind of Family Centers. He was a main researcher in the project and evaluated work of Family Centers. He is also an expert in the Ministry of Justice.	IAS-platform
Norway (Tromso)	University of Tromso - Faculty of Health Sciences - The Center for Child and Adolescent Mental Health and Child Welfare	Monica Martinussen	Mariann Bellika Hansen, Frode Adolfsen, Marjann Hansen, Ingunn Bulling Skjesol	Evaluation studies of various interventions, implementation studies, and studies examining more organizational factors including inter-professional collaboration that facilitates high quality services. In addition, we have an online journal (ungsinn.no) where interventions and treatments for children and young people are described and evaluated. We provide training and courses for professionals working with children and young people both in Tromsø and in the municipalities where they work. We also support the municipalities in Northern Norway in their work on how to organize their services e.g., in terms of family centers. We have	evaluation of IAS

	(RKBU-Nord)			<p>previously developed a handbook for professionals working in Family's houses/centers, https://uit.no/Content/303043/RKBU_Family_Electronic.pdf</p> <p>We are also conducting a national study of family centers and other organizational models including examining factors such as interprofessional collaboration and leadership and how it is related to the quality of the services for children and their families. Participants are parents, professionals and their leaders.</p>	
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6 Budget

Each partner receives 2 types of budget:

- Budget for the IAS meetings. This amount depends on the number of participants to the visits (it is now calculated on 4 persons) and the distance (more or less than 2000km¹)
- Budget for project management and implementation: 6000€ (or 250€/month) for the partners, 12000€ (or 500€/month) for the project coordinator (i.e. Kind en Gezin)

¹ THL & Torun University: 9200€; Kind en Gezin, VBJK, Mala Ullica: 9940€; Tromso University: 10680€