

# The ECEC System in Germany – frame, facts and some figures

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# Germany as a federal system

- Since 1990 (re-unification) 16 Länder (states)
- Education, Culture, Social Welfare in the responsibility of Länder
- ECEC integrated in the Social Welfare system
- National frame: Social Law, Book VIII/VII: general goals and regulations, f.i.: each child has the legal right to access the ECEC system in a centre or family daycare from age 1 (since 2013)
- Municipalities as main actors to fulfill the rights of a child
- States are in the responsibility to give support to municipalities
- National support for states and municipalities esp. in expansion of the ECEC system



# Participation in the German ECEC-System 2016

< 3	37%
> 3	97%

*OECD: Starting Strong 2017*

- Example from North-Rhine-Westphalia

Age group	„Migrants“	„Germans „
< 3	17%	31%
> 3	85%	97%

*Bock-Famulla, Strunz, Löhle (2017): Länderreport Frühkindliche Bildungssysteme. Bertelsmann Stiftung*



# Financing the German ECEC-system

- Differences between the 16 states
- Examples from a „rich“ and a „poor“ state and Berlin:

	Baden- Württemberg (West)	Brandenburg (East)	Berlin (East/West)
Municipalities	51,5%	57,5%	/
State	33,2%	25,1%	93%
Parents	15,3%	17,3%	7,0%

Bock-Famulla, Strunz, Löhle (2017): Länderreport Frühkindliche Bildungssysteme.  
Bertelsmann Stiftung



# Recently arrived Refugees in Germany

- From summer 2015 to April 2016 682,025 registered asylum seekers arrived in Germany
- 49,670 of whom were ages 0-3 (7,3%) and
- 37,524 of whom were ages 3-6 (5,5%)
- Accommodation for refugees: emergency shelters, refugee camps, communal accommodations or individual apartments



# Civil Society Engagement started at once

- Individuals
- Welcome Initiatives in Neighbourhoods
- NGO-Agencies for Refugees
- Networks on Human rights-Associations
- Networks on children's rights-Associations
- Local meeting points in parks, cafes, bars,
- dancing schools, artistic centers, theaters, the Berlin philharmony ...



# National Programs in the ECEC System

- ‚Early Chances‘ since 2011 to support German language acquisition for children within the ECEC-system: additional special qualified staff (3,000 Kitas)
- 2017: additional support by consultancies for ECEC-centres and supporting networking between centres who are working with children of refugees
- 2017: Program “Kita-Einstieg” (kindergarten-entry) to facilitate families in shelters who are not familiar with the German ECEC-system



# National Programs in the ECEC System

In April 2017 the national government drafted a **bill to strengthen children and young people**, part of which are arrangements and actions to increase the protection of children in shelters. Currently 25 coordination agencies are promoted to implement such concepts, 75 additional agencies are planned.



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