

# Enhancing Child Well-being: From Ends to Means?

Wednesday 16th January 2019  
OECD Conference Centre Room 1

## Programme agenda

The aim of this conference is to bring stakeholders together to discuss policies and initiatives that enhance child well-being. Discussions will first focus on how to make poverty reduction policies more effective and sustainable for the hardest to reach population groups and how to best meet the multiple needs of families. The range of issues that will be discussed includes measures at national and subnational levels in order to respond to the multiple needs of children and their families; measures to reduce inequalities in access to education and care services; and effective policy evaluation and monitoring practices.

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### Opening remarks

9:00-9:15

**Stefano Scarpetta**, Director, Employment, Labour and Social Affairs, OECD.

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### Session 1: Comprehensive national anti-poverty strategies

About 1 in 7 children in the OECD live in relative poverty, and in most countries child poverty is higher than poverty rates for the total population. Several countries are putting in place comprehensive strategies to better combat child poverty and strengthen existing policies. Revision of policy development and implementation to respond to the diversity of situations and needs of families is part of this debate, as is better use of policy evaluation and monitoring.

This session will focus on the main challenges for countries engaged in a comprehensive strategy to combat child poverty, and will involve presentations on the anti-poverty action plans recently adopted in Canada, France, Greece and New Zealand. An important aspect is that these strategies involve a "bottom-up" approach: i.e. they facilitate the development of community-based action programmes to account for local conditions".

9:15-11:00

Speakers:

- **Dimitrios Karellos**, Secretary General of Social Solidarity of the Ministry of Labour, Greece
- **Vincent Reymond**, Secrétaire Général de la Délégation interministérielle à la prévention et à la lutte contre la pauvreté des enfants et des jeunes, France.
- **Patrick Bussière**, Director for Employment and Social Development, Canada
- **Richie Poulton**, Chief Science Advisor to the Prime Minister in her role as Minister of Child Poverty Reduction', New Zealand

Session moderator: **Monika Queisser**, Senior Counsellor and Head of Social Policy Division, OECD.

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11:00-11:30

### Coffee break

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ENHANCING CHILD WELL-BEING:  
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**Session 2: A range of services for vulnerable families: what makes them work?**

Access to welfare benefits, as well as to health, social or housing services often varies across families and children, depending heavily on the family and social statuses of families. Reaching the most vulnerable groups of children and families requires good coordination of action across all range of services and at all levels of national and local responsibility. Municipalities and non-governmental organisations in particular play a key role in helping or guiding the most vulnerable families on the ground and in complementing policies decided at national level. The issues, needs, and constraints identified at the local level may differ from those identified at the national level. A critical challenge for effective policies is to ensure good complementarity between these different levels of action.

In addition, family and parenting support services are an important resource to reach the most vulnerable families, but their effectiveness depends on their capacity to engage families. However, family forms are changing and the family living arrangements of the most vulnerable families are often complex. It is then very important that support and services for families adapt to these changes.

The session will discuss which actions can be taken to reach the most vulnerable groups of families.

Speakers:

- **Sylvain Lemoine**, Deputy Head of the Cabinet of the Mayor of Paris, France
- **Muriel Langenberger**, Head of Programs Europe, Jacobs Foundation, Switzerland
- **Christine Skinner**, Professor of Social Policy, University of York, United Kingdom

11:30-13:00

Recorded Video: **Karen den Hertog**, manager of the Amsterdam Healthy Weight Approach; and **Leontien Peeters**, Bernard Van Leer Foundation, Netherlands

Session moderator: **Willem Adema**, Senior Economist, OECD.

Key questions for discussion

- What are the main challenges and constraints existing at the municipal level to implement a policy that addresses the needs of the most vulnerable families?
- What programmes or actions can non-governmental organizations put in place to assist municipalities and/or governments to help the most vulnerable families and children?
- What can national governments do to better interact with municipalities and/or non-governmental organisations in order to define policy goals and implementation practices?
- How family service delivery should be adapted to cope with the complexity of family living arrangements?

13:00-14:30

**Lunch break**

### Session 3: Delivering effective and fair care and education services

With decades of evidence to support early childhood programs and policies, investment in Early Childhood Education and Care programs has expanded worldwide. However, with these increased investments comes evidence that the capacity of policy systems to support early childhood development, reduce inequalities and to meet family needs varies across and within countries. Addressing the multiple needs of families and children requires better integration between care and education services, as well as better guidance through the whole set of social, health and family services.

Panellists from this session will share their expertise in the development of early childhood services to address the needs of the most disadvantaged families, to engage families and enhance child well-being.

Speakers:

- **Sylviane Giampino**, Présidente du Haut Conseil à l'Enfance, la Famille et l'Âge, France
- **Tove Mogstad Slinde**, Senior Adviser at the Ministry of Education and Research, Norway
- **Alfonso Lara Montero**, Chief Executive, European Social Network
- 14:30-16:00 • **Annamaria Cosatti**, Head of Unit on early child development and learning, Save the Children, Italy.
- **Lena Correll**, Early education in the Family, BMFSFJ and Evangelischen Hochschule Berlin (EHB), Germany.

Session moderator: **Yuri Belfali**, Head of Division, Early Childhood and Schools, OECD.

#### Key questions for discussion

- What measures are particularly effective in reducing inequalities in children's participation in care and education services and in promoting the participation of children from disadvantaged families?
- What are ways to achieve better integration of family, care and education services? Which countries have developed innovative measures in this area?
- What are examples of effective programs to engage families in early childhood education?
- How can digital tools help to better reach vulnerable families and help parents raise their children?

16:00-16:15

Coffee break

### Session 4: Effective policy evaluation and monitoring practices

The development of support for families and children depends crucially on sharing knowledge about programmes and initiatives that are yielding positive outcomes. At all levels of action, the challenge is to enable decision-makers to evaluate the impact of the programmes they are implementing and to share this evidence with other stakeholders in order to scale-up programmes that work.

Panellists in this session will discuss good practices in how to share knowledge about service effectiveness and efficiency to raise children well-being outcomes. Speakers will also discuss issues related stakeholder accountability and evaluation processes to monitor policy implementation and results.

Speakers:

- **Bianca Albers**, Director, Center for Evidence and Implementation, Australia
- **Rigmor Berg**, Department Director Reviews and Health Technology Assessments, Norwegian Institute of Public Health, Norway.
- 16:15-17:45 • **Françoise Pissart**, Directrice à la Fondation du Roi Baudouin, Belgium
- **Emily Schmitt**, Deputy Director, Office of Planning Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families, United States

Session moderator: **Olivier Thévenon**, Social Policy Analyst, OECD.

#### Key questions for discussion

- Which evaluations of child and/or family services are useful for the development of these services and their quality?
- How to use impact evaluation in order to implement and adapt programs to local circumstances?
- What place should be given to innovative programmes in the evaluation and monitoring process?
- What should be done if the evidence on programme impact is scarce?
- Why and how can practitioners be guided to self-evaluate their action?

17:45-18:00 **Concluding remarks – Monika Queisser**, Senior Counsellor and Head of Social Policy Division, OECD.

For additional information on the workshop, please contact Olivier Thévenon at: [Olivier.Thevenon@oecd.org](mailto:Olivier.Thevenon@oecd.org)

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OECD Child Well-Being portal: <http://oe.cd/child-well-being>