ERiK report also available via **www.dji.de/erik**

ERiK

Methodological Report IV

Implementation and Data Quality of the ERiK-Surveys 2022

Forschungsverbund
tu DJI
Deutsches Jugendinstitut
Technische Universität Dortmund

DJI Deutsches Jugendinstitut

wbv

ERiK-Methodological Report IV

Implementation and Data Quality of the ERiK-Surveys 2022

ERiK

Methodological Report IV

Implementation and Data Quality of the ERiK-Surveys 2022

Forschungsverbund
tu DJI
Deutsches Jugendinstitut
Technische Universität Dortmund

DJI
Deutsches
Jugendinstitut

wbv

Researching children, youth and families at the intersection of science, policy, and professional practice

The German Youth Institute (DJI) is one of the largest social science research institutes in Europe with an experience of over 60 years. The DJI conducts empirical studies into the life situations of children, young people and families, and provides policy advice to the German national government, the German federal states and local authorities as well as key impulses for professional practice.

Founded in 1963, the governing body of the institute is a non-profit association with members from the fields of politics and science as well as from child, youth and family welfare institutions and organisations. The DJI receives the majority of its funding from the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, and the German federal states. The Federal Ministry of Education and Research, the European Commission as well as foundations and other science funding institutions provide additional funding.

Currently, about 500 staff members work and conduct research at the two locations in Munich and Halle (Saale).

Authors:
Sonja Herrmann, Jakob J. Gilg, Franz L. Classe, Diana D. Schacht, Benjamin Gedon, Susanne Kuger

Design and layout of inner section:
Christiane Zay, Passau

Interior typesetting:
paginamedia

Editing:
Baker & Company

2024 wbv publication
a division of
wbv Media GmbH & Co. KG, Bielefeld

Overall production:
wbv Media, Bielefeld,
Auf dem Esch 4, 33619 Bielefeld,
service@wbv.de
wbv.de

Cover design:
Christiane Zay, Passau

Order number: I77840
ISBN Print: 9783763977840
ISBN E-Book: 9783763977857
DOI: 10.3278/9783763977857

Printed in Germany

This publication is freely available for download at
wbv-open-access.de

This publication, with the exception of the cover photo, is published under the following Creative Commons:
creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/deed.en

All trademarks, trade names, logos, or company names referenced in this publication are used for identification only and are the property of their respective owners

Bibliographic information of the German National Library
The German National Library lists this publication in the German National Bibliography; detailed bibliographic data is available on the Internet at http://dnb.d-nb.de.

Funded by:

Federal Ministry for
Family Affairs, Senior Citizens,
Women and Youth

Contents

1 Preface 7

2 Introduction 9

3 Implementation of the ERiK-Surveys 2022 11

3.1 Modifications from Planned Fieldwork Efforts and Contacts 11

3.2 Fieldwork 13

3.3 Number of Completed Questionnaires and Response Rates 17

3.4 Mode Choices 19

3.5 Regional Coverage 21

3.6 Nonresponse Surveys 23

4 Data Quality of the ERiK-Surveys 2022 27

4.1 Limited Comparability of the 2020 and 2022 Surveys for Directors and Pedagogical Staff 27

4.2 Selectivity 29

4.3 Weighting 30

4.4 Informative Value at the Federal and State Levels 35

5 Summary 39

Bibliography 41

A Appendix 43

List of Figures 48

List of Tables 49

1. Preface

The 'ERiK Methodological Report IV' (in German: ERiK-Methodenbericht IV) is the fourth methodological report in the study 'An indicator-based monitoring of structural quality in the German early childhood education and care system' (in German: Entwicklung von Rahmenbedingungen in der Kindertagesbetreuung – indikatorengestützte Qualitätsbeobachtung – ERiK). ERiK is a national study that aims to provide data-based knowledge on the quality of early childhood education and care (ECEC) in Germany. The study includes regular surveys of parents, directors of day-care centres, pedagogical staff, family day-care workers, youth welfare offices and providers of day-care centres. The DJI conducted the first surveys in 2020. In 2022, further surveys were conducted with the aforementioned target groups as well as an additional survey of 4 to 6-year-old children who were cared for in a day-care centre in 2020 and 2021.

The 'ERiK Methodological Report III' (Schacht et al. 2023) thoroughly examines the target population and sampling strategies employed in the ERiK-Surveys 2022. By contrast, this report focuses on implementing the sample and survey designs and assessing the data quality of the ERiK-Surveys 2022. Taken together, these two methodological reports encompass comprehensive background information on the ERiK-Surveys 2022.

The information presented in 'ERiK Methodological Report IV' is a collective result of the collaborative efforts of the entire ERiK team, who actively contributed to the ERiK-Surveys 2022 at the German Youth Institute (Deutsches Jugendinstitut – DJI). Special acknowledgement is extended to the members of the ERiK steering group, namely Prof. Dr. Bernhard Kalicki, Dr. Sina Fackler, Dr. Christiane Meiner-Teubner and Christine Bopp. Additionally, gratitude is expressed to the ERiK team colleagues for their valuable feedback, including Janette Buchmann, Johanna Romefort, Dr. Theresia Pachner, Melina Preuß, Lisa Ulrich and Nadira Tursun.

The monitoring project contributes to an ongoing effort to advance the quality of early childhood education and care in Germany. As a result, the publication is enriched by the diverse discussions held with colleagues of the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ), representatives from the ministries of the federal states, and experts from other fields. Engaging with different committees and stakeholders has been instrumental in gathering valuable technical insights for the report. In addition, we would like to thank Dr. Christian Nagel from the department for Data & Innovation at the City of Munich (Landeshauptstadt München) for his statistical expertise. We would also like to thank Dr. Jean Philippe Décieux of the Federal Institute for Population Research (BiB) for reviewing the report and making helpful suggestions for improvement.

Furthermore, we would like to express our gratitude to the infas Institute for Applied Social Sciences and the SOKO Institute for Social Research and Communication for their dedication and efforts in conducting the ERiK-Surveys 2022.

In addition, the report has been enriched by the invaluable practical assistance of numerous individuals. We extend our special appreciation to Aydan Mammadova for her organisational support. Furthermore, our gratitude extends to Isabel Becker, Eugenia Zimmermann, Gitta Metzger, and the dedicated student assistants within the ERiK team.

Munich, September 2024

Dr. Sonja Herrmann – *Deputy Head of the ERiK Project, DJI*

Jakob J. Gilg – *Research Associate within the Department of Social Monitoring and Methodology, DJI*

Franz L. Classe – *Research Associate within the Department of Social Monitoring and Methodology, DJI*

Dr. Diana D. Schacht – *Senior Quantitative Researcher, DJI*

Benjamin Gedon – *Research Associate, SOS Kinderdorf*

Prof. Dr. Susanne Kuger – *Research director of the German Youth Institute (DJI) and Full Professor for Empirical Social and Education Research in Childhood and Adolescence at LMU Munich*

2. Introduction

The study entitled 'An indicator-based monitoring of structural quality in the German early childhood education and care system' (ERiK) is a nationwide study with the objective of offering data-driven insights into the quality of early childhood education and care (ECEC) in Germany. In 2020, the DJI conducted the initial surveys targeting directors of day-care centres, pedagogical staff, family day-care workers, youth welfare offices, and childcare centre providers. In 2022, the surveys were repeated with the previously mentioned groups and supplemented by an additional survey focussing on 4 to 6-year-old children who received childcare in 2020 and 2021. Furthermore, the ERiK parent survey is interconnected with the DJI Childcare Study (KiBS). KiBS was extended by an ERiK module comprising additional questions about the quality of day-care (for more information on this topic please see Section *7. ERiK Parent Survey* in Schacht et al. (2023); for more information on KiBS in general please see Wieschke/Lippert/Kuger (2023)). Further surveys are planned for directors of day-care centres, pedagogical staff, family day-care workers, youth welfare offices, and childcare centre providers in 2024.

This report introduces the ERiK-Surveys 2022 and focuses on the following aspects of the surveys:

1. Implementation of the sample and survey designs (see Chapter 3),
2. Evaluation of the data quality (see Chapter 4)

The chapter 'Implementation of the sample and survey design' delineates the field measures, field progress and modifications of the originally planned fieldwork. The subsequent chapter 'Evaluation of the data Quality' appraises data selectivity and modifications of the target population, outlines the weighting procedure, and evaluates the information content of the data at the federal and state levels. The report concludes with a recapitulation and recommendations for data users. For in-depth discussions regarding the target population and sampling strategies of the ERiK-Surveys 2022, readers can refer to the 'ERiK Methodological Report III' (Schacht et al., 2023). The fieldwork documents, including invitation and reminder letters, data protection information, and questionnaires, are accessible in an online appendix to this report (www.dji.de/erik/MBIV_Anhang).