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

ERiK

Methodological Report V

Design and Implementation of the ERiK-Surveys 2024

Forschungsverbund
tu DJI
Deutsches Jugendinstitut
Technische Universität Dortmund

DJI
Deutsches Jugendinstitut

wbv

ERiK-Methodological Report V

Design and Implementation of the ERiK-Surveys 2024

ERiK

Methodological Report V

Design and Implementation of the ERiK-Surveys 2024

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 Education, 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 380 staff members work and conduct research at the two locations in Munich and Halle (Saale).

Authors:
Franz Classe, Jakob J. Gilg, Caterina L. Sanchez Steinhagen, Sonja Herrmann, Susanne Kuger

Design and layout of inner section:
Christiane Zay, Passau

Interior typesetting:
paginamedia

Editing:
Baker & Company, Munich

2026 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: I79967
ISBN Print: 9783763979967
ISBN E-Book: 9783763979974
DOI: 10.3278/9783763979974

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-sa/4.0/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

In accordance with Section 44b of the German Copyright Act (UrhG) the publisher reserves the right to engage in text and data mining, which is hereby prohibited to third parties without the publisher's consent.

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 Education, Family Affairs, Senior Citizens,
Women and Youth

Contents

1. Preface 7

2. Introduction 9

3. Target Populations 11
   - 3.1 Directors of Day-Care Centres 11
   - 3.2 Pedagogical Staff of Day-Care Centres 11
   - 3.3 Family Day-Care Workers 11
   - 3.4 Youth Welfare Offices 12
   - 3.5 Providers of Day-Care Centres 12
   - 3.6 Parents of Children in Day-Care 12

4. Sampling Frames 13
   - 4.1 Federal State Lists 13
   - 4.2 Youth Welfare Offices & Family Day-Care Workers 15

5. Sampling Designs 17
   - 5.1 Day-Care Centres: Directors & Pedagogical Staff 17
   - 5.2 Youth Welfare Offices & Family Day-Care Workers 18
   - 5.3 Providers 19

6. ERiK Parent Survey (KiBS) 21

7. Implementation of the ERiK-Surveys 2024 23
   - 7.1 Questionnaires 23
   - 7.2 Field Period 23
   - 7.3 Providers 28
   - 7.4 Number of Completed Questionnaires and Response Rates 29
   - 7.5 Nonresponse Surveys 31

8. Data Quality of the ERiK-Surveys 2024 33
   - 8.1 Limited Comparability of the 2020, 2022 and 2024 Surveys 33
   - 8.2 Weighting 34
   - 8.3 Informative Value at Federal and State Level 38

9. Summary 41

10. Bibliography 43

11. Appendix 45

1. Preface

The ERiK Methodological Report IV (German: ERiK-Methodenbericht IV) is the fifth methodological report in the study "An indicator-based monitoring of structural quality in the German early childhood education and care system" (German: Entwicklung von Rahmenbedingungen in der Kindertagesbetreuung – indikatorengestützte Qualitätsbeobachtung – ERiK). ERiK is a nationwide study that aims to provide data-based knowledge on the quality of early childhood education and care (ECEC) in Germany. It 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, followed by further surveys in 2022 and 2024.

While the methodological aspects of the ERiK-Surveys 2022 are presented in two separate reports (Gilg et al., 2023; Herrmann et al., 2024), the present report covers all of the methodological background information regarding the ERiK-Surveys 2024. Also, this report was prepared with the assistance of artificial intelligence (AI) tools for editorial refinement. All content was critically reviewed, verified, and finalized by the authors. The information presented in this report is the result of the collective efforts of the entire ERiK team that actively contributed to the ERiK-Surveys 2024 at the German Youth Institute (Deutsches Jugendinstitut – DJI). Special acknowledgement is extended to the members of the ERiK steering group, namely Prof. Dr. Susanne Kuger, Prof. Dr. Bernhard Kalicki, Dr. Christiane Meiner-Teubner, Dr. Sina Fackler, Dr. Melanie Böwing-Schmalenbrock and Christine Bopp. Additionally, gratitude is expressed to the ERiK team colleagues for their invaluable feedback, including Janette Buchmann, Yasmin Öztürk, Melina Preuß, Johanna Romefort, Anna Selmayr, Nadira Tursun, and Lisa Ulrich.

The monitoring project contributes to an ongoing effort to advance the quality of early childhood education and care in Germany. As a result, this report has been enriched by the various discussions held with colleagues of the Federal Ministry for Education, Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women, and Youth (BMBFSFJ), representatives from the ministries of the federal states, and experts from other fields. Engaging with different committees and stakeholders has been instrumental in gathering central technical insights for the report. In addition, we would like to thank Dr. Ludovica Gambaro of the Federal Institute for Population Research (BiB) for reviewing the report and her helpful suggestions for improvement. Moreover, we would like to express our gratitude to the infas Institute for Applied Social Research and Communication for their dedication and efforts in conducting the ERiK-Surveys 2024.

Lastly, the report has been enriched by the invaluable practical assistance of numerous individuals. We extend our special appreciation to Isabel Becker, Eugenia Zimmermann, Cora Szabo, and the dedicated student assistants within the ERiK team.

Munich, February 26

Dr. Franz L. Classe – *Co-Head of the ERiK Project, DJI*
Jakob J. Gilg – *Research Associate within the Department of Social Monitoring and Methodology, DJI*
Caterina L. Sanchez Steinhagen – *Research Associate within the Department of Social Monitoring and Methodology, DJI*

2. Introduction

The Act on the Further Development of Quality and the Improvement of Participation in Day Care Facilities and in Child Day Care (German abbrev.: KiQuTG) came into force on 1 January 2019 with the aim of improving the early childhood education and care (ECEC) system throughout Germany. The extension of the law with a stronger focus on refining the quality of childcare passed into law on 1 January 2023. Since then, the law has been abbreviated in German as the "KitTa-Qualitätsgesetz" or "Childcare Quality Act". The law was extended again in 2024 and came into force on 1 January 2025. The (further) development of the law is linked to indicator-based monitoring, which is being implemented as part of the ERiK ("indicator-based monitoring of structural quality in the German early childhood education and care system") project. The aim is to use research reports published every two years to empirically observe and classify developments in quality and participation in the early childhood education and care (ECEC) system in Germany. In this context, reliable data on the structure and conditions of ECEC are essential for monitoring developments in this area over time.

The ERiK project has been conducted since 2020 with the goal of generating systematic insights into the nationwide quality of ECEC. In 2024, the ERiK-Surveys were carried out for the third time, continuing the established monitoring framework. Further surveys are planned for 2026, targeting the same populations as in 2024.

Its target populations include directors, pedagogical staff, and providers of day-care centres, youth welfare offices, and family day-care workers in all German federal states. In addition, parents of children not yet attending school were surveyed within the context of the DJI Child Care Study (KiBS; Kinderbetreuungsstudie). The approach of surveying different populations aims at ensuring that diverse perspectives of actors within the German ECEC system are adequately reflected in the data and consequently in subsequent analyses and reporting. This aspect of multi-perspectivity is a central feature of the ERiK project and contributes to a comprehensive understanding of the ECEC landscape in Germany.

This methodological report provides an overview of the design and implementation of the ERiK-Surveys 2024. Specifically, it contains information on:

- Target populations
- Sampling frames and sampling designs
- The integration of KiBS
- Survey implementation (including fieldwork, response rates, and nonresponse analyses)
- Data quality and weighting procedures.

In contrast to the previous ERiK-Surveys (2020, 2022), which were documented in two separate volumes, the present report covers all methodological aspects of the ERiK-Surveys 2024 in one single publication. Overall, this report provides a comprehensive overview of the methodology of the ERiK-Surveys 2024. Furthermore, it offers insights into data quality at both state and federal levels, as well as the comparability of results across survey years.