This is a newsletter about our work in the project during August and September 2019.

Data Analysis:
We are still working on the more detailed coding and analysis of the observational data to explore the data more in-depth on e.g. the issues of non-play and risky play. Other themes will also be analysed in more detail in the future.
All the interviews are transcribed and now ready for further analysis. We have started to do some interview analysis and more will be conducted throughout the fall and winter semester.

Master Students:
Our research assistant, Marie Aurora, has started a master program in Childhood Studies at the Norwegian Centre for Child Research, and is planning to write her master thesis within EnCompetence. She is the third master student in our project.

Publications:
The fourth scientific article from the project was published in July 2019 in Early Child Development and Care. You can find it here: https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/03004430.2019.1651305. This is the third article in Ole Johan’s PhD-work. This article focuses on the importance of tumbling spaces in ECEC institutions’ indoor environment.

Rune, Ellen Beate and Ole Johan are still waiting for the review of their article on children’s involvement and the use of loose materials in the ECEC outdoor environment, and Ole Johan and Ellen Beate is soon submitting an article on the characteristics of environments that promote both high well-being and high physical activity. In addition, Ellen Beate is developing two articles about risky play with Patricia Obee, the Canadian master student who worked in our project during the winter 18/19.

We are also working on three more articles; one on what characterizes the non-play situations in our data material (May Liss), one on how environments can restrict or promote children’s symbolic play (Randi and Maria), and one on the leadership of change processes in ECEC institutions based on the interview material (Randi og Maria)

The development of our anthology is still work in progress, and the goal is to have the manuscript ready for print in March 2020 so we can launch the book at our closing conference in May 2020.

Coordinating Group (CG):
On September 23rd we had this fall’s meeting in the Coordinating Group through Skype. Coordinating Group are representatives from the practice partners in the project (Espira, Læringverkstedet, Trondheim municipality og National knowledge centre for ECEC), and is the group that is responsible for supervising the project; that we do the research we are supposed to and that we spend money within the budget.
Coordinating Group was presented with the progress of the scientific part of the project as well as the economic situation. Both are well within the plans.
The work on criteria and web site
Since Hilde Amundsen developed the first draft of our web resource in July, barnehagemiljø.no (exists also in a version in barnahagemiljo.no), she has developed this further and included more text in the site. The further work of the project group will now be to finish all the content that is to be included on the website and to pilot it with relevant user groups; staff in ECEC institutions, ECEC owners, architects, landscape architects etc. It will also be piloted among the members of the Scientific Reference Group. The web resource will be launched at our closing conference in May 2020.

Conferences:
In August 2019 the research group contributed with four presentations at the EECERA conference in Thessaloniki (https://www.eecera2019.org/). We received great interest for our project and our results so far.

In September 2019 Randi and Maria contributed with a presentation at the IRLF EC conference in Pretoria where they introduced results from our interview material on challenges of leading and managing change processes in ECEC institutions.


Closing conference 2020:
The dates for the closing conference are, as previously mentioned, May 26th og 27th. It will be arranged at the QMUC campus in Trondheim, and you can find the program here: https://dmmh.no/media/illustrasjonsbilder/kurs-og-konferanser/2019/encompetence/program-encompetence.pdf