Newsletter no. 2, fall 2017

We have soon finished our first 6 months of the EnCompetence project, and so far everything has gone according to plan. In this newsletter you can see what we have worked on during November and December, and what we plan to work on during the first half year of 2018.

November and December 2017
As mentioned in the previous newsletter (No. 1, fall 2017), we started the process of data collection in the 8 ECEC centers in October, and in week 44 (November 3rd) we finished collecting all data in phase 1 of the project. We now have video observations of the physical environments in the centers and how it is used by the 80 children participating in the project; a total of almost 2000 minutes of video material. In addition, field notes have been colleced in relation to all video recordings.
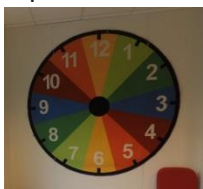
As soon as we finished data collection, the analysis process started. Initially, all the 2-minute video sequences are analyzed and coded to identify children's level of well-being, involvement and level of physical activity in each of the sequences. To measure this we use the Leuven Involvement and Well-being Scales and the Observational System for Recording Physical Activity in Children Preschool (OSRAC-P). Each of the sequences are analyzed and scored independently by two researchers (Ole Johan / Rune / Ellen Beate). This was finished December 20th, and it has been an exciting but time-consuming process.

On November 30th, we had a project group meeting where Ole Johan, Rune, Ellen Beate, Randi and May Liss spent a day discussing the status of the project, reviewing the analysis process and looking at results so far. We also made a plan for project activities during spring 2018.
During December, we also published (almost) all researcher profiles on our website.

Further working plans
To secure the quality of the scoring of well-being, involvement and physical activity level, we will revisit all sequences where there are major discrepancies between the two coders (2 scores or more). This is done to identify any error in scoring (punching) or misinterpretations. In the beginning of 2018, we will also start working on determining environmental categories, social categories, play categories and other variables needed in the analyzes. These categories and codes will be added into our analysis tool, Observer XT. Then we will start the work of coding these variables in each of the video sequences. We expect to be fully occupied with this far into the spring semester.

The Coordinating Group for the project has scheduled a meeting in February, and later in the spring we will arrange a meeting with Scientific Reference Group as well as carrying through workshops with co-researchers from ECEC centers, the architect and the landscape architect. In these workshops our international partners will also participate.