



WG2 Case study profile

WG2 Thematic Group	WG2.2. Children and childcare
Name(s) of proposer	Thomas Marthaler
Institution	University of Luxembourg, INSIDE
Title of case study (and priority ranking)	The regulation of child welfare
Country/region/place investigated	Grand Duché of Luxembourg
Social service sector(s) investigated <i>(Erase non relevant ones)</i>	<i>Short description</i> The case study looks at how child welfare/the 'best interests' of the child are institutionalized in law as well as in organizations (public and private) of child welfare and child protection services, and how it is enacted through interactions with parents.
Category of case study ('what' is investigated) <i>(Erase non relevant ones)</i>	<i>Short description</i> The case study embraces organizational policies and individual strategies of those participating in a set of regional child protection networks, with the main focus lying on enactments of child welfare/'the best interests of the child' as a basic moral category in a highly juridificated and managerialized field.
Time frame considered <i>(from when to when)</i>	<i>Short description</i> 2013/2014
Five 'perspectives' <i>(Erase non relevant ones)</i>	<i>Short description</i> The analytical end-point are findings on the processing of a moral category such as child welfare in a specific institutional field. This field is conceived as a geography of knowledges (Santos) and norms (cf. research on legal pluralism). In child welfare-related interactions on the ground, organizational, legal, professional and quotidian norms meet conflictually. The analysis scrutinizes the current performance of material rationality in social interventions under conditions of hybrid governance system and with a heterogenous population of users.
Three processes in restructuring + crisis <i>(Erase non relevant ones)</i>	<i>Short description</i> Key (re)structuring forces are: NPM as a background to the overall regulatory scheme; furthermore orientations towards child protection and the implementation of standardized tools in assessments; finally, complex relationships between co-actors involved in the governance process as well as in interactions with families.
Specific questions/focus	<i>Short description</i> Risks and potentials of the child welfare-norm with an eye on social, organizational and professional diversity.
Local Stakeholder Network (LSN)	<i>Do you intend to set up a LSN:</i> NO

